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ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this Document

This document, Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies, consists of six units each of which can stand on its own as an independent document. Each unit deals with an individual class of parks. The philosophy and history of each class is detailed, and the policy basis for that class is set out. Then follow long range planning policies for the development of that class as a whole. Finally master planning, development, and management policies applicable to individual parks within that class are set out. The scheme outlined in this document will be the principal organizational tool in the implementation of the Provincial Parks Policy approved by Cabinet on May 9, 1978. Therefore, Planning and Management Policies has been designed to be of particular use to park planners and managers involved in the planning, development, and management of individual Provincial Parks.

The targets for representation of the classes of parks as identified in Part II, Systems Planning Policies, for each class are tentative only. The material on representation and evaluation represents the present "state of the art" as developed in Provincial Parks Branch. The level of service to be provided and the distribution of new Provincial Parks is subject to approval by Cabinet.

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Why Park Classification?

Park classification is an approach to park planning and management now in use in many countries which recognizes that a well-organized, balanced parks system provides a wide variety of experiences in a wide variety of landscapes. Classification helps to ensure the maintenance of the diversity intended in a parks system which includes everything from strictly protected natural areas to highly developed recreation facilities. It helps to ensure that the park user gets the most out of individual parks and the parks system as a whole.

All parks are distinctive environments; none are the same. No individual park can be all things to all people. Classification organizes parks into broad categories. Ideally, the visitor approaches a classified park with some idea of what to expect, because each park shares with the others in its class certain immediately recognizable characteristics. When in the park, the activities in which the visitor participates are those which best make use of the park's particular environment and facilities.

Ontario's classification scheme is tailored particularly to the landscape and people of this province. The classification scheme for Ontario Provincial Parks in use from 1967 until now included five classes: Primitive Parks, Wild River Parks, Natural Environment Parks, Recreation Parks, and Nature Reserves. These classes have proven basically sound, and are being continued with minor modifications. The Wild River Parks class has been broadened into Waterway Parks, and Primitive Parks have been renamed Wilderness Parks. A sixth class, Historical Parks, was proposed in 1972 but has not received policy approval until now.

The purposes of park classification in the Ontario Provincial Parks system are:

1. To clearly express the role of individual Provincial Parks in achieving the objectives established for the Provincial Park system as a whole.
2. To enable managers to ensure that each individual who participates in the diverse opportunities provided by the Provincial Parks system can best satisfy and most reward his or her individual desires.
3. To promote the best management of the diverse resources of the Provincial Parks system, through the encouragement of public understanding and appreciation of the characteristics of

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1. Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, Parks Branch, Classification of Provincial Parks in Ontario, 1967.

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individual Provincial Parks and of the parks system as a whole.

No classification system can dramatically alter overnight a long established, diverse, and complex parks system such as Ontario's. The adaptation of the parks system to more genuinely reflect the principles of park classification involves changes which can only be brought about over a number of years.

Figure A describes the location, classification, and size of all Provincial Parks currently operating or in regulation under The Provincial Parks Act.

Why Park Zoning?

Park zoning is another widely recognized planning and management technique. Zoning recognizes that every park includes a particular combination of significant resources, features, and potential experiences, most but not all of which relate to the principal purpose of the park established through its classification. For example, a significant historical site may be found in the middle of a block of wilderness. Classification without zoning would disregard such a resource. These special features complement the most dominant resources in their individual park, and help to achieve the objectives of the parks system as a whole.

Zoning allocates a park's lands on the basis of their significance for protection and their potential for recreation within the context of the park's classification. Zoning is essential to the orderly development and effective management of a park. The parks in each class combine zones in a particular way to provide protection and recreation opportunities distinctive to that class.

The 1967 Provincial Parks classification scheme provided for five zones: Primitive, Natural, Historic, Multiple Use, and Recreation. Again, these zones have proven basically sound, and despite name changes are not being altered radically in substance. An Access Zone has been added. The Multiple Use Zone has been deleted. The areas in Algonquin and Lake Superior Parks where commercial timber harvesting is permitted within areas devoted to recreational activities characteristic of Natural Environment Zones have been designated Recreation-Utilization Zones. Natural Zones have been replaced by Natural Environment and Nature Reserve Zones. Primitive, Historic, and Recreation Zones have been renamed Wilderness, Historical, and Development Zones respectively.

The purposes of park zoning in the Ontario Provincial Parks system are:

1. To enable planners and managers to ensure that the diverse resources of each Provincial Park make the fullest contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Provincial Parks system and the park itself.

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2. To enable managers to ensure that each individual who participates in the diverse opportunities provided by each Provincial Park can best satisfy and most reward his or her individual desires.
3. To promote the best management of the diverse resources of each Provincial Park, through the encouragement of public understanding and appreciation of each Park's particular combination of diverse characteristics.

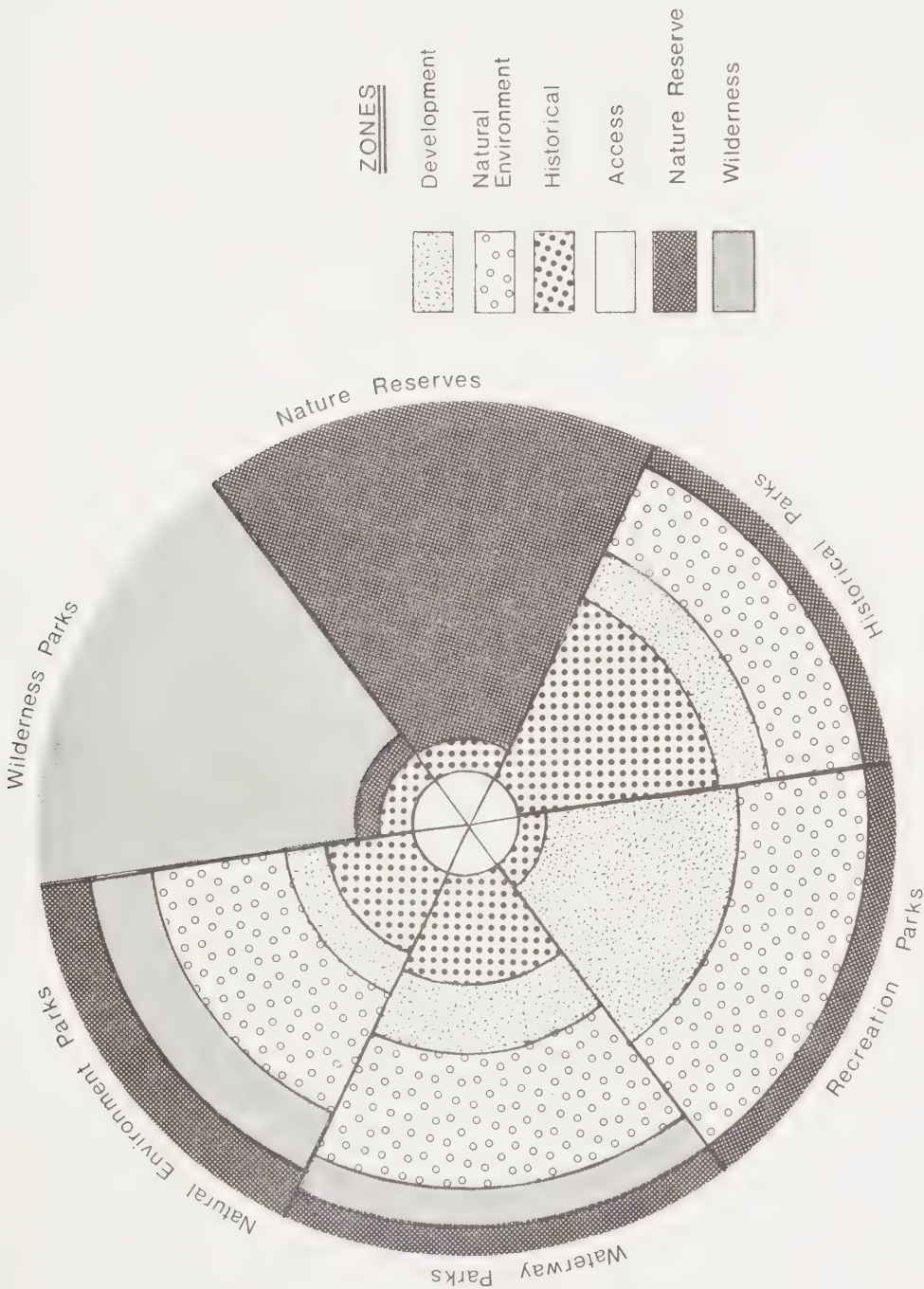
Figure B illustrates the relationship of classes and zones in the Provincial Parks system.

Figure A
LOCATION, CLASSIFICATION, AND SIZE
OF ONTARIO'S PROVINCIAL PARKS



PROVINCIAL PARK	HECTARES IN REGULATION	ACRES IN REGULATION	PARENT CLASS	OUTLINE CLASS	PROVINCIAL PARK	HECTARES IN REGULATION	ACRES IN REGULATION	PARENT CLASS	OUTLINE CLASS		
1. AARON	713	1,773	R	71. RITCHEE FALLS	11	27	NR	71. RITCHEE FALLS	11	27	NR
2. ALGONQUIN	765,300	1,891,200	HE	72. RITCHEE	54	133	NR	72. RITCHEE	54	133	NR
3. ARTHUR	12	30	R	73. MISSISSAUGA RIVER	44,060	108,880	HE	73. MISSISSAUGA RIVER	44,060	108,880	HE
4. ARTHUR LAKE	100	250	R	74. MISSISSAUGA RIVER	2,263	5,610	NR	74. MISSISSAUGA RIVER	2,263	5,610	NR
5. ARTHUR LAKE	777	1,940	R	75. MISSISSAUGA RIVER	19,800	49,000	NR	75. MISSISSAUGA RIVER	19,800	49,000	NR
6. ARTHUR LAKE	1,886	4,660	HE	76. MISSISSAUGA RIVER	1,062	2,640	NR	76. MISSISSAUGA RIVER	1,062	2,640	NR
7. BALSAN LAKE	143	353	R	77. MURPHY'S POINT	830	2,050	NR	77. MURPHY'S POINT	830	2,050	NR
8. BASS LAKE	39	96	R	78. MURPHY'S POINT	5,846	14,446	HE	78. MURPHY'S POINT	5,846	14,446	HE
9. BATHURST	180	448	R	79. MURPHY'S POINT	8,312	20,512	NR	79. MURPHY'S POINT	8,312	20,512	NR
10. BLACKBURN	1,458	3,604	HE	80. MURPHY'S POINT	9,409	23,250	NR	80. MURPHY'S POINT	9,409	23,250	NR
11. BLUE LAKE	351	875	R	81. OATMAN LAKE	32	78	NR	81. OATMAN LAKE	32	78	NR
12. BOB ECHO	6,644	16,417	HE	82. OATMAN	9,409	23,250	NR	82. OATMAN	9,409	23,250	NR
13. BONNECHERE	116	287	R	83. OJIBWAY	2,430	6,000	NR	83. OJIBWAY	2,430	6,000	NR
14. BRONTE CREEK	641	1,583	R	84. QUINCY PRAIRIE	161	400	NR	84. QUINCY PRAIRIE	161	400	NR
15. CALDER	134	331	R	85. QUINCY CANYON	777	1,920	NR	85. QUINCY CANYON	777	1,920	NR
16. CARILLON	694	1,714	R	86. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR	86. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR
17. CARSON LAKE	15	37	R	87. QUINCY CANYON	1,558	3,910	NR	87. QUINCY CANYON	1,558	3,910	NR
18. CAVEN LAKE	183	457	NR	88. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR	88. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR
19. CHAMPLAIN HEMLOCKDA RIVER	8,200	20,200	NR	89. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR	89. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR
20. CHARLESTON LAKE	102	253	NR	90. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR	90. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR
21. CHUTE	109	270	R	91. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR	91. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR
22. CHATELAIN	66	162	R	92. THE PINERY	2,177	5,376	NR	92. THE PINERY	2,177	5,376	NR
23. CYPRESS LAKE	669	1,654	HE	93. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR	93. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR
24. DANIELSON	289	713	R	94. POLAR BEAR	2,410,000	5,950,000	P	94. POLAR BEAR	2,410,000	5,950,000	P
25. DEWILS CREEK	14	34	R	95. POMPOYER ISLAND	10	24	NR	95. POMPOYER ISLAND	10	24	NR
26. DRIFTWOOD	232	574	R	96. PORT BAKER	13	32	NR	96. PORT BAKER	13	32	NR
27. EARL HOWE	300	742	R	97. PRESQUE	937	2,315	NR	97. PRESQUE	937	2,315	NR
28. EAST SISTER ISLAND	53	131	NR	98. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR	98. QUINCY CANYON	277	687	NR
29. ERIE	306	758	R	99. RABBIT FALLS	2,266	5,610	NR	99. RABBIT FALLS	2,266	5,610	NR
30. ESKER LAKE	3,108	7,680	HE	100. RUSH LAKE	7,235	17,860	NR	100. RUSH LAKE	7,235	17,860	NR
31. FAIRBANK	105	260	R	101. RESTIGUÉE	1,635	4,050	NR	101. RESTIGUÉE	1,635	4,050	NR
32. FATHOM FIVE	9,800	24,300	HE	102. RIVER LAKE	48	119	NR	102. RIVER LAKE	48	119	NR
33. FERRIS	490	1,210	R	103. ROCK POINT	24	58	NR	103. ROCK POINT	24	58	NR
34. FERRIS LAKE	37	92	R	104. RONDAQUE	1,816	4,500	NR	104. RONDAQUE	1,816	4,500	NR
35. FITZROY	158	393	R	105. RUSH LAKE	1,468	3,630	NR	105. RUSH LAKE	1,468	3,630	NR
36. FIVE HILL LAKE	1,128	2,790	R	106. SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN	1,239	3,080	NR	106. SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN	1,239	3,080	NR
37. FORTY	4,946	12,222	HE	107. SANDOZ LAKE	2,022	5,050	NR	107. SANDOZ LAKE	2,022	5,050	NR
38. FORTY	4,946	12,222	HE	108. SANDOZ LAKE	2,157	5,376	NR	108. SANDOZ LAKE	2,157	5,376	NR
39. GLENN RIVER	168	415	NR	109. SANDOZ LAKE	2,157	5,376	NR	109. SANDOZ LAKE	2,157	5,376	NR
40. GLENN RIVER	5,350	13,220	HE	110. SELKIRK	59	145	NR	110. SELKIRK	59	145	NR
41. GRANDY LAKE	2,558	6,310	HE	111. SERPENT HOUNDS	56	138	NR	111. SERPENT HOUNDS	56	138	NR
42. HALFWAY LAKE	13	32	R	112. SHABOT LAKE	176	437	NR	112. SHABOT LAKE	176	437	NR
43. HALLS BEACH	92	227	R	113. SHABOT POINT	225	556	NR	113. SHABOT POINT	225	556	NR
44. HALLS BEACH	389	961	HE	114. SILENT LAKE	804	2,005	NR	114. SILENT LAKE	804	2,005	NR
45. HALLS BEACH	389	961	HE	115. SILENT LAKE	804	2,005	NR	115. SILENT LAKE	804	2,005	NR
46. HALLS BEACH	389	961	HE	116. SILENT LAKE	804	2,005	NR	116. SILENT LAKE	804	2,005	NR
47. HALLS BEACH	389	961	HE	117. SIOUX HARBOR	129	320	NR	117. SIOUX HARBOR	129	320	NR
48. HALLS BEACH	389	961	HE	118. SIX HILL LAKE	73	180	NR	118. SIX HILL LAKE	73	180	NR
49. HALLS BEACH	389	961	HE	119. SOUTH HARBOR	129	320	NR	119. SOUTH HARBOR	129	320	NR
50. HALLS BEACH	389	961	HE	120. SPOKESWATER	129	320	NR	120. SPOKESWATER	129	320	NR
51. HALLS BEACH	389	961	HE	121. SPOKESWATER	129	320	NR	121. SPOKESWATER	129	320	NR
52. HALLS BEACH	389	961	HE	122. THE SHOALS	11,138	27,670	NR	122. THE SHOALS	11,138	27,670	NR
53. HALLS BEACH	389	961	HE	123. THE SHOALS	11,138	27,670	NR	123. THE SHOALS	11,138	27,670	NR
54. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	124. TRILLION WOODS	10	25	NR	124. TRILLION WOODS	10	25	NR
55. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	125. TURNKEY POINT	315	778	NR	125. TURNKEY POINT	315	778	NR
56. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	126. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	126. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
57. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	127. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	127. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
58. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	128. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	128. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
59. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	129. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	129. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
60. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	130. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	130. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
61. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	131. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	131. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
62. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	132. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	132. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
63. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	133. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	133. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
64. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	134. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	134. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
65. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	135. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	135. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
66. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	136. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	136. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
67. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	137. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	137. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
68. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	138. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	138. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
69. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	139. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	139. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
70. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	140. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	140. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
71. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	141. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	141. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
72. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	142. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	142. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
73. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	143. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	143. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
74. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	144. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	144. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
75. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	145. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	145. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
76. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	146. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	146. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
77. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	147. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	147. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
78. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	148. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	148. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
79. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	149. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	149. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
80. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	150. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	150. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
81. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	151. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	151. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
82. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	152. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	152. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
83. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	153. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	153. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
84. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	154. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	154. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
85. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	155. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	155. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
86. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	156. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	156. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
87. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	157. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	157. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
88. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	158. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	158. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
89. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	159. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	159. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
90. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	160. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	160. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
91. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	161. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	161. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
92. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	162. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	162. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
93. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	163. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	163. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
94. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	164. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	164. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
95. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	165. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	165. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
96. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	166. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	166. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
97. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	167. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	167. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
98. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	168. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	168. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
99. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	169. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	169. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR
100. KILLBURN	1,756	4,340	HE	170. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR	170. WAGON LAKE	21,706	53,800	NR

FIGURE B
HOW CLASSES AND ZONES ARE
RELATED WITHIN THE
PARKS SYSTEM



This diagram illustrates the relative size and importance of various zones from class to class, not how zones are related to each other within an actual park of any class. The absence of a particular zone within a class indicates that the zone in question is not compatible with the class.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

WILDERNESS PARKS

WILDERNESS PARKS
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WILDERNESS PARKS

INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Provincial Parks system is:

To provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural, and recreational environments, in a system of Provincial Parks.

The objectives of the Provincial Parks system are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Protection
Objective | <i>To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.</i> |
| 2. Recreation
Objective | <i>To provide Provincial Park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.</i> |
| 3. Heritage
Appreciation
Objective | <i>To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.</i> |
| 4. Tourism
Objective | <i>To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.</i> |

The six classes of Provincial Parks together achieve these objectives. Wilderness Parks are substantial areas where the forces of nature are permitted to function freely and where visitors travel by non-mechanized means and experience expansive solitude, challenge, and personal integration with nature. Wilderness Parks contribute principally to the achievement of the protection, recreation, and heritage appreciation objectives.

WILDERNESS PARKS

PART I

A WILDERNESS PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

1. Historical Background

To the Europeans who expanded from their small and domesticated continent to colonize the world, wilderness was desert, unexplored and forbidding tracts which man had not yet tamed and cultivated. The settlers of North America feared the wilderness and strove to domesticate it. Prosperity and security appeared to be based on harvesting the animals, felling the trees, and ploughing the soil of these wild lands for the benefit of the colonizers who were rapidly displacing the continent's original inhabitants.

In the 19th century, the settlers approached this continent's last frontiers, and their impact on the landscape escalated; first in the United States and then in Canada. The original soils, vegetation, and wildlife were being drastically altered from their pre-European state. Many habitats and species appeared to be approaching extinction. The native inhabitants were being rapidly confined to reserves which were only a small fraction of their original territory. Thoughtful men such as Henry Thoreau and John Muir wished to preserve some of the beauty of this natural providence which man was destroying. Others such as Gifford Pinchot saw in the hasty exploitation of forests and wildlife a wasteful and uneconomic abuse of valuable natural resources.

The wilderness preservation movement was a late 19th century marriage of aesthetic motives to preserve some of the Creation, and economic motives to conserve resources. Recreation was seen as a minor byproduct of this mix. The marriage would be a rocky one which would lead to many conflicts over the next hundred years. The preservation motive would become far better defined with the mushrooming of the natural sciences and of ecological concerns. The economic conservation motive would be gradually excluded from the wilderness movement. Finally, the recreation motive would grow from aesthetic appreciation and gentlemanly sojourns for a few, to massive and frequently overwhelming use by millions.

The first formal National Park in the world, Yellowstone, in Wyoming, was designated in 1872. Yellowstone Park was established to preserve an outstanding natural landscape including geysers and hot springs for the viewing pleasure and appreciation of future generations. The idea of reserving substantial tracts of land from development pressures and calling them "parks"--though many of them would not be called "wilderness parks" today--spread quickly.

Canada's first large area parks in remote, undeveloped areas were established in the 1880s in the Rocky Mountains. Tourism and the medicinal benefits of hot springs were important factors

WILDERNESS PARKS

PART I

A WILDERNESS PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

in the establishment of these first National Parks, which had just become accessible by the newly built Canadian Pacific Railway. At the same time, support was developing for the establishment of a park of this type in the largest remaining undeveloped tract in Southern Ontario, the Algonquin Highlands. The Province established the "Algonquin National Park" (under Provincial jurisdiction notwithstanding the name) in 1893. The Act designating Algonquin declared the Park to be "a public park and forest reservation, fish and game preserve, health resort and pleasure ground for the benefit, advantage and enjoyment of the people of the Province." Railway construction, recreational property leasing, logging, and trapping were all permitted in Algonquin, and these activities were seen as consistent with the preservation movement of the times.

By 1914, Algonquin had been expanded to approximately its present limits, and Quetico Park had been established. Then war and depression blunted the preservation and conservation movements in Canada. As well, the limited recreational use that was made of the early parks was not for the most part resource consumptive, and consequently did not appear to be in direct conflict with landscape preservation. Similarly, the destructive forces influencing natural landscapes and ecosystems were neither so widespread nor so great as today, and there was a comparative wealth of unmodified natural areas.

The 1940s and 1950s brought increased urbanization and unparalleled prosperity to Ontario. These decades also saw the rapid growth of easy access to Ontario's remaining undeveloped lands. As a result, increased recreational and resource demands were placed on these natural areas. Back-country and wilderness recreation burgeoned, as did the Provincial Parks system. Long-established environmental groups strengthened and new ones developed, calling for additional large park areas to be designated and for both existing and new ones to be managed as true wilderness, free from lodges, cottages, mining, logging, hunting, trapping, railways, and roads.

The Provincial Parks classification scheme of 1967 formally recognized the value of wilderness through a new Primitive Parks class. Primitive Parks were to be large areas where development would be minimal and resource exploitation nonexistent. Out of the wilderness preservation movement of the 1960s and early 1970s and the Province's response to it, three Primitive Parks eventually emerged: Polar Bear, Quetico, and Killarney.

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2. The Need for Wilderness Parks

Today wilderness has value as both a reality and a concept. Wilderness has intrinsic, incalculable value as the last relatively undisturbed large area remnants of our natural heritage. Man needs wilderness for recreation, education, and research. Man also needs to know that wilderness is there, whether he uses it directly or not; to know that some of his world continues to function and evolve relatively free from his intervention.

In an era of rapid technological advance and large scale landscape manipulation, Wilderness Parks provide opportunities to retain large tracts of land where natural processes may take place relatively unaffected by external influences. These areas serve as benchmarks in both the earth and life sciences. Such benchmark areas are essential to the measurement of long term evolutionary trends. They are capable of retaining a diversity of dynamic plant and animal communities where natural selection continues to mould species and community structure in harmony with a naturally evolving environment.

In fact, Wilderness Parks may in some cases provide our only opportunity to preserve plant and animal species, not in tiny colonies, but in large areas approximating the former range conditions of these species. Many landform features, forest and vegetation types, and animal species such as the caribou or timber wolf require large tracts in order to survive as viable features in their original environment. Consequently, Wilderness Parks are essential to the perpetuation of the diversified pool of species upon which the evolution of our living world depends.

Wilderness Parks provide unique opportunities for scientific research into the dynamics of unaltered landscapes and ecosystems. The retention of naturally evolving communities is essential to the development of comprehensive ecological theories. These theories can provide valuable guidelines for management of the total Ontario environment.

Historically man has developed a system of ethics to guide his relationships with his fellows in human communities. Wilderness Parks provide a means to develop and promote an environmental ethic. Through study and appreciation of these areas, man will better understand the environment upon which he depends.

In Ontario, vast forests and variable lake and river landscapes were a foundation stone of our early economic development and subsequent evolution to nationhood. Wilderness Parks retain examples of the historical undeveloped landscapes of our frontier

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society and provide opportunities for present and future generations to experience the land as our forefathers knew it.

Wilderness Parks form a significant source of inspiration for Canadian painters, who have achieved international recognition for their portrayal of landscapes within Algonquin, Killarney, and Lake Superior Parks. Creators of Canadian prose and poetry such as Farley Mowat, Blair Fraser and Margaret Atwood have been inspired by wilderness values. Wilderness themes have inspired the musical songs and stories of Gordon Lightfoot and Tom Connors. Films such as Quetico and North of Superior have received international acclaim for their interpretation of Ontario's wilderness heritage.

Because wilderness is a central theme in Canadian cultural expression, and because it is also part of the personal experience of many Canadians, wilderness is important to our national identity. Wilderness also meets even more basic needs common to all human beings. The idea that an area can remain untouched indefinitely by technology is appealing and inspiring to many people who never actually visit wilderness. In fact wilderness provides an important element of our sense of freedom and our awareness of a natural or divine order above and beyond that of man.

Finally, Wilderness Parks provide a very special kind of recreational experience. The wilderness user has unparalleled opportunities for total immersion into his natural and historical heritage; for resourcefulness, adventure, and challenge; for peace, solitude, and contemplation.

Less than two centuries ago, Ontario was almost entirely wilderness. At the beginning of the 20th century, intensive resource utilization in Northern Ontario was still limited to a very few small areas of logging and mining. The building of the transcontinental railway systems had a marked impact on the North by making its great wealth of resources available to the rapidly growing markets of North America. But even until the late 1950s and early 1960s, wild areas such as Quetico Park were almost unreachable by land. The Trans-Canada Highway system suddenly made readily accessible vast additional undeveloped tracts of northern Ontario.

With improved transportation systems and increasing rates of timber harvesting, mineral exploration, pipeline construction, dam building, and other such activities, opportunities for the establishment of new Wilderness Parks are fast diminishing. It is doubtful if any area in Ontario remains as pristine as it did even 30 years ago. However, the opportunity for coming close to the ideal remains in a number of locations.

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Quantitative demand for the establishment of Wilderness Parks can be substantiated. Studies conducted in Algonquin and Quetico Parks, and in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Minnesota adjacent to Quetico, indicate a growing demand for back-country recreation. Recreational activities which emphasize challenge, mobility, and individual exploration in the context of natural environments, such as back-country camping, canoe tripping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing, continue to grow in popularity.

The number of back-country campers in Quetico Park increased by an average of 3.7% per year between 1969 and 1975. Algonquin Park experienced a 14.1% per year increase for the same period. Across the border, back-country use in the United States has been increasing at an annual rate of about 10%.

An effort has been made to estimate the magnitude of back-country camping in Ontario--camping in natural areas while travelling by canoe or by foot. In the Ontario Recreation Survey, respondents who had engaged in camping were questioned whether they participated in any camping overnight while canoeing or hiking through a natural area. In 1973, of those participating in camping, approximately 12% engaged in back-country camping, accounting for 17% of camper days. The relatively small size of the sample recorded for back-country campers means that results must be treated with caution, and certainly not as precise estimates. Assuming that the back-country camping proportion of total camping remained constant through 1976, it can be estimated that back-country camping both within and outside of Ontario by Ontario residents in 1976 comprised approximately 1,300,000 camper days involving close to 600,000 campers. This amounts to 156 camper days per 1000 residents. There was also an additional unknown quantity of back-country camping in Ontario by non-residents.

It is important to note that the above estimate for back-country camping includes the use of existing and potential Wilderness Parks as well as the use of all other natural areas which do not meet Wilderness Park standards. The estimate includes use by those whose satisfaction depends on experiencing what they consider to be a true wilderness setting, as well as those whose demands regarding the natural setting are less stringent. It is necessary to identify that portion of back-country users which demands a wilderness experience of a type which can be accommodated only in a system of Wilderness Parks.

A recent Ontario survey undertaken as part of the Man and Resources programme has probed attitudes relevant to Wilderness Parks. Approximately 25% to 30% of respondents perceived strong conflicts between wilderness uses (low-intensity recreation)

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and non-wilderness uses (high-intensity recreation and resource exploitation). As well, a number of studies have documented the extent of wilderness demand among back-country campers. In these studies, questionnaire responses which reveal the lowest tolerances for conflicting activities and "crowding" have been used to indicate the extent of wilderness recreation demand.

Responses to the above studies eliciting desires for wilderness experiences suggest that 20% to 40% of all respondents demand wilderness experiences (see Figure 1). For the purposes of estimating the current extent of wilderness recreation demand, it has been hypothesized that this demand comprises 30% of all back-country camping. Applying this percentage to the estimate of the total number of back-country campers derived earlier suggests that the current extent of wilderness demand is in the order of 390,000 user days per year (180,000 campers). These estimates again apply only to wilderness demand by Ontario residents currently participating in back-country travel.

The problems inherent in obtaining and using the above estimates are obvious. It is necessary to use such an approach in the absence of better information on wilderness recreation participation. Estimates of wilderness participation can be varied simply by accepting a wider or narrower range of responses as representative of the extent of wilderness recreation demand. However, the identified range of 20% to 40% of all back-country campers does represent the best obtainable estimate of the user group which demands a Wilderness Park type experience.

Two projections have been developed which provide alternative estimates of future participation in wilderness travel.

Projection I assumes that growth in participation in back-country travel, and hence in wilderness travel, will match the growth of the Ontario population between 1976 and 1991. The back-country travel participation rate of 156 user days per 1000 population per year will continue unchanged in the future, as will the wilderness camping participation rate of 47 user days per 1000 population per year.

Projection II assumes that participation in back-country travel, and hence in wilderness travel, will continue to grow more rapidly than the Ontario population until a saturation point is reached. This saturation point is that at which the province-wide participation rate in the back-country recreation activity of canoeing reaches the present participation rate in non-urban northern Ontario, which has the highest present participation rate of any region. Participation in back-country travel will grow until 1981 at a rate of 11%, the average rate of growth in back-country travel in Algonquin and Quetico Parks between

FIGURE 1
RESPONSES USED TO ESTIMATE EXTENT OF
WILDERNESS DEMAND

<u>People Encounters</u>	<u>% of Respondents</u>
- Crowding is seeing 3-5 occupied campsites/day (Algonquin - Priddle and Clark)	46%
- Crowding is seeing 6-8 boats/day (Algonquin - Priddle and Clark)	43%
- Crowding is seeing 3-5 boats/day (Algonquin - Priddle and Clark)	34%
- Encountering 2-5 groups/day is too many (Boundary Waters - Lucas)	25%
- Encountering 1 group/day is too many (Boundary Waters - Lucas)	16%
- Crowding is seeing 1-2 occupied campsites/day (Algonquin - Priddle and Clark)	14%
- Crowding is seeing 1-2 boats/day (Algonquin - Priddle and Clark)	9%
<u>Experience Purity</u>	
- Logging should be phased out of Park (Lake Superior - Preliminary Master Plan)	39%
- Logging and recreation together unacceptable in Park (Lake Superior - Preliminary Master Plan)	36%
- Canoeing and motorboating strongly conflict (Ontario - Man and Resources)	30%
- Logging and canoeing strongly conflict (Ontario - Man and Resources)	26%
- Strong wilderness purists (Boundary Waters - Stankey)	20%

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1966 and 1972, until it reaches a saturation point of 246 user days per 1000 population per year. After 1981, these rates will remain constant, and until 1991 growth in participation will match the growth of the Ontario population.

Figure 2 shows the estimates of back-country and wilderness travel participation derived from these two projections. A small but unknown portion of back-country travel by Ontario residents takes place outside Ontario. There is also an equally unknown but presumably larger quantity of back-country travel in Ontario by non-residents. A conservative estimate of the net sum of these two quantities is that total back-country travel in Ontario is at least 25% greater than back-country travel within and outside of Ontario by Ontario residents. The net inflow of non-resident back-country travel is now considerably more than 25% in Provincial Parks. However, the 25% figure will be adopted for long range planning and has been used in Figure 2 to provide total projections for back-country travel in Ontario.

FIGURE 2
PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN BACK-COUNTRY AND WILDERNESS TRAVEL

('000's of User Days per Year)							
		1976		1981		1991	
		Residents Only	Residents & Non-Residents	Residents Only	Residents & Non-Residents	Residents Only	Residents & Non-Residents
Projection I							
Total Back-Country Travel		1,300	1,600	1,400	1,800	1,600	2,000
Wilderness Travel (30% assumption)		390	480	420	540	480	600
Projection II							
Total Back-Country Travel		1,300	1,600	2,200	2,700	2,600	3,200
Wilderness Travel (30% assumption)		390	480	660	810	780	960

Notes: These projections cannot be translated directly into area requirements.
The wilderness recreation user group and the remainder of the back-country travellers may mix in the use of the same area.

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3. A Policy for Wilderness Parks

Wilderness Parks are substantial areas where the forces of nature are permitted to function freely and where visitors travel by non-mechanized means and experience expansive solitude, challenge, and personal integration with nature.

Wilderness Parks are blocks of land and water large enough to allow natural processes to continue on a large scale, relatively unaffected by human action. They are relatively unmarred natural landscapes in which visitors can experience remnants of the Province's natural heritage. Wilderness use is based on direct interaction between user and environment. The wilderness user camps in the interior, travelling by foot, ski, canoe, and other non-mechanized means. There the user can, for example, swim, fish, and appreciate his or her surroundings. The absolute minimum of facilities is provided.

Wilderness Parks offer challenging and profound physical and psychological experiences. Only a small percentage of Ontarians enter Wilderness Parks in any one year. But the wilderness user's experience is a lifetime experience, and wilderness clearly contributes to the heritage and the identity of all those Ontarians who may never enter it.

The Wilderness class of parks contributes to the achievement of the following objectives of the Provincial Parks system by:

<u>Protection</u>	<u>Protecting a system of provincially significant</u>
<u>Objective:</u>	<u>wilderness environments.</u>

Wilderness Parks will preserve a range of representative undisturbed natural landscapes which incorporate the greatest possible diversity of special and representative earth and life science features and historical resources. The system for representation is defined in Part II of this document.

<u>Recreation</u>	<u>Providing wilderness back-country travel and</u>
<u>Objective:</u>	<u>camping opportunities.</u>

The recreational experience will be characterized by expansive solitude, challenge, and personal integration with nature derived from unmanipulated landscapes.

<u>Heritage</u>	<u>a) Providing opportunities for unstructured</u>
<u>Appreciation</u>	<u>individual exploration and appreciation of the</u>
<u>Objective:</u>	<u>wilderness heritage of Ontario.</u>

Individual exploration and appreciation will be encouraged to the greatest extent compatible with and complementary to preservation of wilderness environments.

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- b) Providing opportunities for exploration and appreciation of natural and cultural environments through interpretation based upon the character and significance of Wilderness Parks.

Where appropriate, low-key interpretation will provide to users and other interested persons opportunities to learn and experience the meaning and purpose of wilderness within Ontario's society and culture.

WILDERNESS PARKS

PART II

SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

1. Representation

Wilderness Parks will represent a diverse range of wilderness environments in Ontario. In establishing Wilderness Parks, the target is to represent each of the site regions of the Province. This will require one representative Wilderness Park and at least one complementary Wilderness Zone in each site region. Large area, wilderness type National Parks will contribute to wilderness representation.

Ontario is divided into 13 site regions on the basis of biological productivity criteria. Each site region is an area of relatively uniform effective climate and is therefore an area of particular biological productivity characteristics. In each site region, soil, climate, and living organisms interact in a particular way. The 13 site regions are illustrated in Figures 3 and 4.

The size of Wilderness Parks is of critical importance for both ecological and recreation reasons. However, the application of both ecological and recreational considerations to a particular area will often lead to differing conclusions on desirable size. Also, size requirements for both ecological and recreational viability vary tremendously depending on the landscape in question. No inflexible standard can be adopted, but some approaches to the problem can be outlined.

A considerable amount of research has been done into the size requirements of an ecologically viable wilderness area. This question may be approached by determining a viable area for the protection of a landscape unit or forest complex, or a viable area for the preservation of a community of animal species.

From the landscape viewpoint, the only conclusion which can be drawn is that size requirements vary entirely with the landscape in question. On that basis, a one hectare island could be viable as wilderness, if it were remote enough and well enough protected from intrusive influences. No such conditions exist in Ontario, and in any case a unit of such size would hardly be a significant or representative Ontario landscape. Even a small watershed tributary to a river draining into Hudson Bay may be 500,000 ha (1,236,000 acres) or more in size. The area required to protect a viable forest complex also varies substantially. In a forest of considerable age, adequate representation of various age classes would require substantial area (one proposal recommends a 194,000 ha (480,000 acres) minimum on this basis).

Those who have emphasized the viability of animal communities have studied the species diversity and species extinction rates in various islands and other isolated areas, and the range requirements of various animals. It should be kept in mind that, over time, as resource and recreational development in Northern Ontario approaches the boundaries of Wilderness Parks, these parks

FIGURE 3

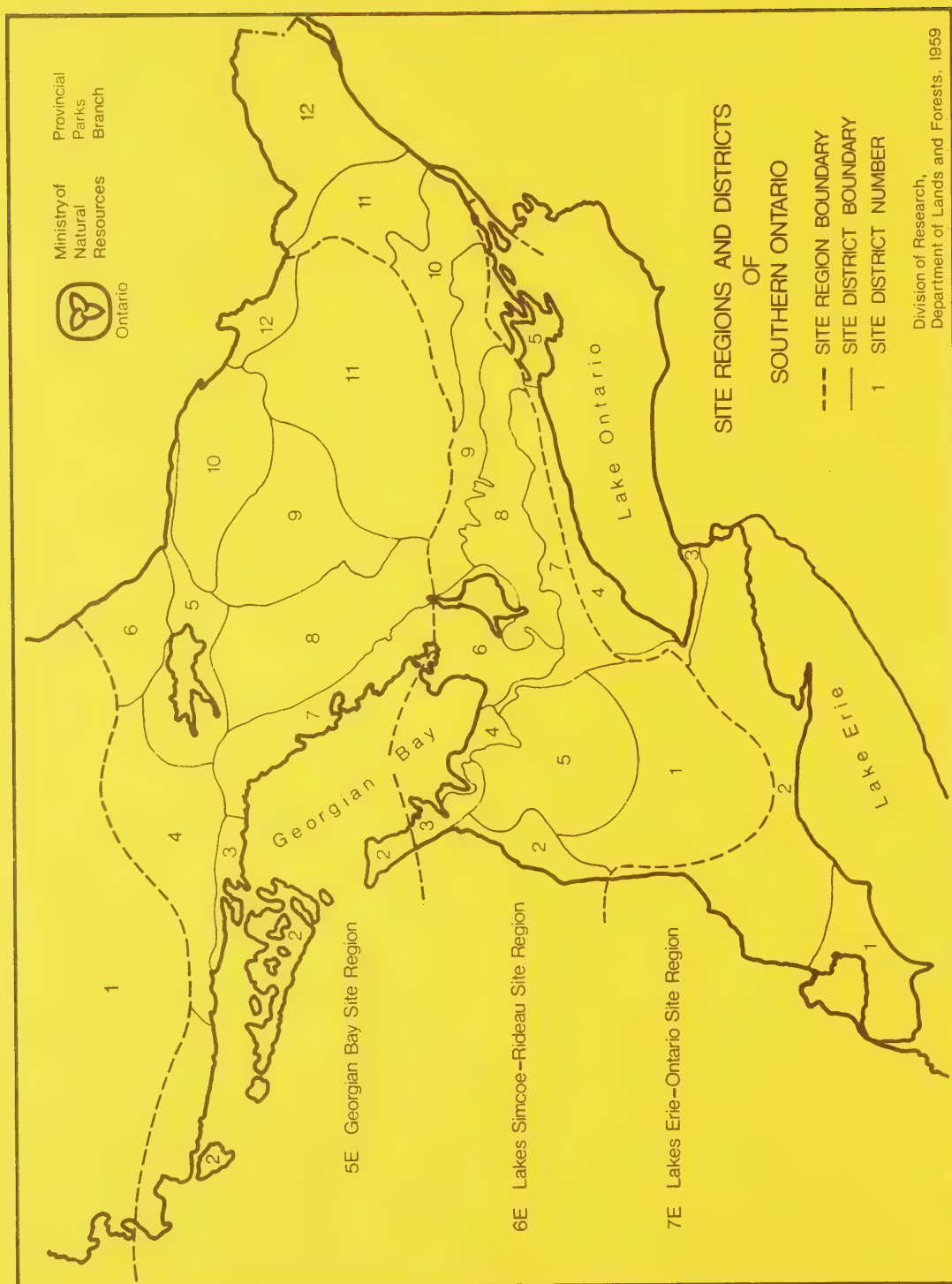
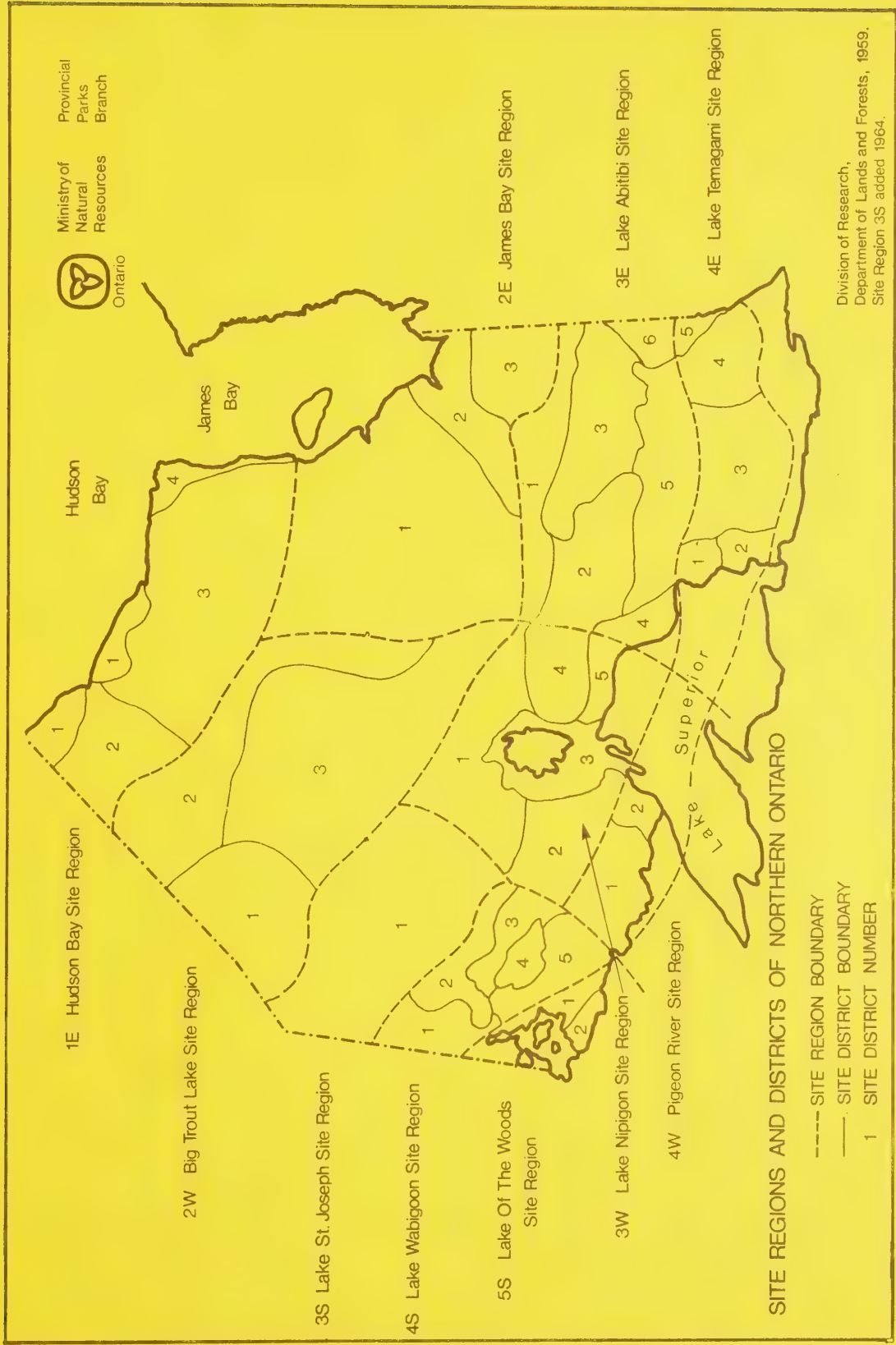


FIGURE 4



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PART II
SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

will increasingly become "islands" or refuges of plant and animal species and communities sensitive to such development. Large-bodied carnivores at the top of the food chain, such as polar bears, wolves, and lynx, have enormous area requirements. For example, one study has suggested that one pack of 12 wolves, a minimal population, requires an area of 60,000 to 72,000 ha (148,000 to 178,000 acres).

In order to protect plant or animal species and communities, one general rule can be laid down. The larger the area set aside, the more effectively these features will be protected.

On recreational grounds, desirable size can be related to mode of travel by the interior user, trip configuration, travel distance per day, and duration of stay. On the basis of known use in Algonquin and Quetico Parks, it can be suggested that an average wilderness canoe trip is about 81 km (50 miles) in duration; that is, 6 days averaging 8 to 9 miles each day. A minimum trip might be 48 km (30 miles); that is, 4 days averaging 7 to 8 miles each day. If it is assumed that these trips form the perimeters of complete circles, and that buffers 5 km in width are required outside the perimeters to protect from intrusive influences, then suitable sizes can be suggested. For the average 81 km trip, the size would be 101,000 ha (249,000 acres); for the minimum 48 km trip, the size would be 50,000 ha (124,000 acres).

Another approach involves assuming that wilderness users take a more linear trip and travel into the park interior. If it is assumed that the user travels from one edge of the park across to another edge in a straight line and returns to the point of origin, then the park must have a minimum width of one half the trip length. Again assuming a circular dimension, this would require a size of 129,000 ha (318,000 acres) for the 81 km trip, or 45,000 ha (112,000 acres) for the 48 km trip. While wilderness travellers do not in fact follow a straight line, neither do wilderness units conform to the most efficient configuration of a circle.

It will be apparent that ecologically viable and recreationally valuable Wilderness Parks require very substantial areas. Notwithstanding the limitations of this approach, some size standards need to be set for land use planning purposes in the Province. A minimum and mean are stated below, but there will undoubtedly need to be considerable variation from the mean. In a number of cases, the mean size will need to be exceeded substantially. Otherwise, the "average" 81 km wilderness trip will become the maximum possible.

In keeping with the philosophy and objectives of Wilderness Parks, parks representative of their site regions should average

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not less than 100,000 ha (247,000 acres) in size, and as an absolute minimum should be not less than 50,000 ha (124,000 acres) in size. In the two most southerly site regions, 6E and 7E, it will not be feasible to establish any Wilderness Parks.

Complementary Wilderness Zones in Natural Environment and Waterway parks will also be established. These smaller units will ensure the widest possible representation of wilderness environments and the greatest possible accessibility to them, particularly in Southern Ontario. These units will particularly serve those travelling by foot, whose trips do not require as large a land area to provide a wilderness experience.

Wilderness Zones should as an absolute minimum be not less than 2,000 ha (4,900 acres) in size and will generally be considerably larger ranging up to 50,000 ha in size. A Wilderness Zone should be as ecologically viable a unit as possible. It should also afford a wilderness experience appropriate to its recreation capability. An ecologically viable unit of a few thousand hectares of rugged terrain (for example, 5,000 ha or 10 km by 5 km), where travel would be primarily on land rather than on water, would allow the hiker to immerse himself in wilderness for a day or overnight. Where water travel is appropriate, a larger area would be required to provide a comparable experience.

Large, remote Wilderness Parks will be enjoyed vicariously by many even though relatively few will be able to visit them. Smaller Wilderness Zones will be closer to population centres where they will be physically accessible to those unable to travel great distances.

WILDERNESS PARKS
PART II
SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

2. Evaluation

Potential Wilderness Parks will require evaluation of the quality of their natural landscapes and of the ability of those landscapes to represent the wilderness environments of their site regions.

Wilderness Parks should contain the greatest possible diversity of special and representative earth and life science features. Prospective areas will require evaluation of the quality and integrity of their earth and life science features and of the ability of these features to represent the earth science history of the Province and the life science diversity of the site regions of the Province.

Prospective areas will be evaluated for their historical significance. Areas should include the greatest possible diversity of special and representative landscape-related historical resources.

The physiographic and ecological integrity of prospective areas will be evaluated. Wilderness Parks should be as ecologically self-contained as possible, and consequently should be bounded by natural features such as topographic formations or physiographic region or watershed boundaries. Potential boundaries should include adequate area to buffer the core large-scale ecosystems from intrusive influences.

Prospective areas will also be evaluated on the basis of their ability to provide low-intensity, isolated recreational opportunities. This evaluation will be both qualitative and quantitative. The landscape should provide a variety of opportunities for primitive, non-mechanized recreation activities such as camping, fishing, canoeing, hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, and nature study. The most desirable environments are ones in which users can experience a range of intangible values including, but not limited to, expansive solitude, isolation, adventure, challenge and self-reliance.

In preliminary quantitative evaluation, a standard unit of area per user day per year calculation may be used. The area required to provide one back-country user day per year varies tremendously with the physical environment. It is estimated that in Quetico Park, and in the currently designated primitive zones in Algonquin Park, approximately 1.75 acres (0.7 ha) are capable of providing one back-country user day per year. In Lake Superior Park, approximately 8 acres (3 ha) are required to provide 1 back-country user day per year, and in Polar Bear Park, 100 acres (40 ha). This type of broad approach must only be used in preliminary investigation.

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SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

For wilderness recreation, it is essential to select areas which have a minimum of existing human intrusions or disturbance. Wherever possible areas will be selected which are distant from roads, railways, mining, agricultural and urban settlements, industries, forest operations, power stations and transmission lines, and sources of pollution.

Priority will be given to qualifying areas where Wilderness Park potential is in danger of deterioration due to lack of protection.

Economic activities and potentials associated with alternative land and resource uses will be considered and thoroughly evaluated.

WILDERNESS PARKS

PART III

MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

A Master Plan will be prepared for each Wilderness Park. Each Master Plan will establish detailed policy guidelines for the Park's long term protection, development, and management. Each Master Plan will be prepared in accordance with Master Planning and Public Participation Guidelines, issued by Provincial Parks Branch.

1. Zoning

Lands and waters within each Wilderness Park will be zoned so that they may be allocated to their most appropriate use relative to the Park. Wilderness Parks always include Wilderness and Access Zones, and may also include Nature Reserve and Historical Zones. Figure 5 illustrates a hypothetical example of zoning in Wilderness Parks.

Wilderness Zones include the wilderness landscapes of the Park, which protect significant natural and cultural features and are suitable for wilderness experiences, as well as a protective buffer, in which there is an absolute minimum of development.

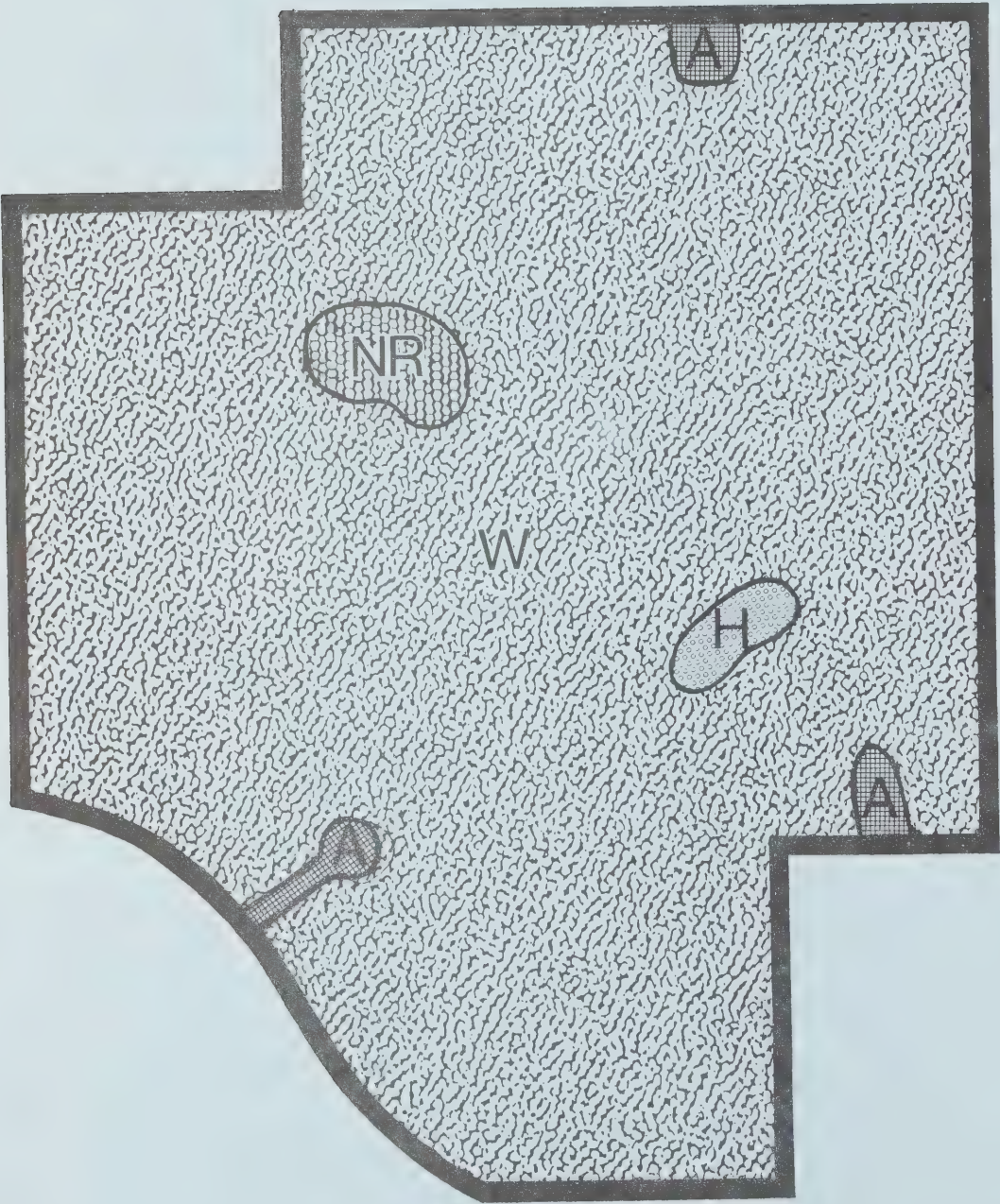
Access Zones serve as staging areas where minimum facilities support use of Wilderness Zones. Their numbers in individual Parks will be limited to the minimum required to provide effective access.

Nature Reserve Zones include any significant earth and life science features which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones.

Historical Zones include any significant historical resources which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones.

FIGURE 5

HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE OF ZONING
IN WILDERNESS PARKS



WILDERNESS PARKS
PART III
MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

2. Land and Water Uses

All alienated lands and waters within the boundaries of Wilderness Parks will be acquired. All physical improvements on acquired lands will be removed, unless they are in a location and of such design as to be of value for park management or visitor services, or unless they are significant to the Park's history or complementary to its cultural landscape. Lands will not be leased for the private use of individuals or corporations.

In any Wilderness Park, non-conforming land and water, resource, or recreational uses may exist at the time of its designation. Such uses will be identified as non-conforming uses in the Master Plan for the Park. No further expansion of these uses will be permitted. Provided that they are not demonstrably incompatible with the Park and the zone within which they are situated, such uses will be permitted to continue until the lands are acquired, the uses disappear through normal processes, or equal opportunities for such uses are provided elsewhere.

The master planning and development and management policies set out in this document are without prejudice to, and may be superseded by, any settlements of claims made between the Ontario Government and Indian bands in Ontario.

WILDERNESS PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

1. Development

The location, design, and materials of all facilities constructed within Wilderness Parks will, to the maximum extent possible, reflect the environmental character of individual Parks. All development will be carried out in accordance with approved site plans and development plans.

Wilderness Zones: Development will be limited to wilderness campsites, portages, trails, and necessary signs for route identification. Wilderness campsites will be limited to facilities such as designated fireplaces and primitive privies.

Access Zones: Development will be limited to roads, visitor control structures, car campgrounds, basic commercial service facilities for visitors including outfitting services for back-country users, and orientation, interpretive, research, and management facilities. Car campgrounds will be developed to a basic standard and normally will be for the use of interior users only, for one night both upon entering and leaving the Park. Where access to the Zone is by foot, air, or water only, equivalent campgrounds may be developed to a basic standard appropriate to the means of access.

Nature Reserve Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, and temporary facilities for research and management. Portages and signs necessary to back-country travel in the Park will be permitted.

Historical Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, and temporary facilities for research and management. Portages and signs necessary to back-country travel in the Park will be permitted.

WILDERNESS PARKS
PART IV
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

2. Environmental Management

a) Lands and Waters

Commercial mineral exploration and extraction will not be permitted.

No new utility lines or rights-of-way may be developed, except those required for servicing the Park which may be developed in Access Zones only.

Park user solid waste and sewage will be disposed outside the Park through local facilities wherever possible. Where there is no practical alternative, landfill sites, incinerators, and sewage lagoons may be located in Access Zones only.

Waters will not be controlled. No new water control structures may be built. Existing structures will be removed or allowed to deteriorate, unless they are essential for water control outside the Park, or their removal would result in an environmental impact more adverse than their retention.

b) Flora

Management of flora will be directed wherever possible to the maintenance of an evolving natural succession.

Commercial forest operations will not be permitted. Where trees are removed for development or management purposes in Access Zones, they may be marketed if economic.

Agricultural practices will not be permitted.

Non-native plant species will not be deliberately introduced. Where they are already established and threaten park values, a management programme for their eradication may be developed. Missing native species may be re-established if biologically feasible and acceptable, normally only to rehabilitate to wilderness quality areas suffering past or present resource or recreational use impacts. Fertilizers may not be used except in Access Zones.

The occurrence of natural fire in certain wilderness environments is recognized as a process integral to an evolving natural succession. A fire management plan will be prepared for each Wilderness Park. Subject to such plans, the following are general guidelines for fire management in Wilderness Parks. Natural fires in Wilderness, Nature Reserve, or Historical Zones will normally be allowed to burn undisturbed unless they threaten human life, Access Zones, or lands outside the Park. Natural fires threatening

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DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

the values for which Nature Reserve or Historical Zones have been established will be suppressed. Prescribed burning may be carried out in Wilderness, Nature Reserve, or Historical Zones to simulate natural fire when desirable. Fires in Access Zones, and fires resulting from human causes in other zones, will be suppressed. Fire suppression techniques used will have as minimal effect as possible on the wilderness environment. Such means of suppression as bulldozing, and water bombing with chemical additives, will not be permitted except in critical situations.

The occurrence in a wilderness environment of forest and vegetative insects and diseases native to the forest region in which that environment is situated is recognized as an integral component of wilderness ecology. Native insects and diseases normally will be allowed to develop undisturbed. Native insects and diseases threatening the values for which Nature Reserve or Historical Zones have been established, or values outside the Park, will be controlled where feasible. Insects and diseases not native to a Park's forest region will be controlled where feasible. Where control is desirable, it will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease so as to have minimal effects on other components of the wilderness environment. Biological control will be used wherever feasible.

c) Fauna

Management of fauna will be directed wherever possible to the maintenance of an evolving natural succession.

Non-native species will not be deliberately introduced. Missing native species may be reintroduced if biologically feasible and acceptable. Existing populations may be replenished only when necessary to correct a human-initiated catastrophe.

Animal populations may be controlled when essential to protect human health and safety, or the health of the species outside the Park. Where control is desirable, techniques will be used having minimal effects on other components of the wilderness environment. Any hunting or trapping required in control will be carried out under the strict supervision of, or directly by, the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Low-intensity sport fishing will be encouraged to the extent compatible with the maintenance of healthy endemic fish populations. To this end, special seasons, size limits, and limits of catch may be established. Fishing will not be permitted in Nature Reserve Zones. No fish will be stocked for sport fishing purposes. The use or possession of bait fish will be prohibited. Certain water bodies may be closed to fishing

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temporarily or permanently for fisheries research or management purposes.

Commercial fishing, including commercial bait fishing will not be permitted on water bodies entirely enclosed within Wilderness Parks.

Sport hunting will not be permitted in Wilderness Parks. Habitats will not be managed to facilitate wildlife viewing.

Existing commercial trapping rights will be phased out in a manner least harmful to the economic wellbeing of existing trappers indigenous to the area. No new trappers or traplines will be permitted. Commercial trapping will not be permitted in Nature Reserve Zones.

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3. Recreation Management

A Management/Operating Plan will be prepared for each Wilderness Park, in accordance with Park Management/Operating Plan guidelines issued by Provincial Parks Branch. Each study will establish detailed guidelines and procedures for the management and operation of Park activities and facilities.

Back-country day-use and camping activities which are based on direct interaction between user and environment will be encouraged in Wilderness Parks. The recreational experience will be characterized by expansive solitude, challenge, and personal integration with nature derived from unmanipulated landscapes. Recreational activities and facilities encouraged in each zone are set out in Figure 6.

Motorized land vehicles and watercraft of any kind will not be permitted, except for access purposes in Access Zones. Where possible, vehicles will be parked in areas of the Access Zone beyond sight and sound of other zones. Restrictions on low level flying will be established over Wilderness Parks. The use of motorized transportation by the Ministry of Natural Resources will conform to these standards wherever possible.

Capacity standards will be established for Wilderness Parks which will serve as safeguards against unregulated and indiscriminate use, so that excessive use in certain areas will not damage wilderness values. To this end, limits on size of parties, and on the number of parties permitted to use designated areas at any one time, may be established. Back-country camping may be restricted or prohibited in Nature Reserve and Historical Zones where necessary to maintain the values for which those zones have been established.

Back-country campers travelling in Wilderness, Nature Reserve, and Historical Zones will be required to pack out all non-burnable garbage. The use of non-burnable, disposable food and beverage containers by travellers in those zones will be prohibited. Management systems will be established in each Wilderness Park for garbage cleanup and general maintenance of wilderness campsites, portages, and trails in Wilderness, Nature Reserve, and Historical Zones.

FIGURE 6
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES ENCOURAGED IN
WILDERNESS PARKS

This figure shows activities and facilities encouraged in Wilderness Parks, by zone. It should be noted that zones are subordinate to the Park class. Therefore activities encouraged or not permitted in an Access Zone, for example, in one class of park will not necessarily be the same as those in an Access Zone in another class.

The left hand column includes both activities and facilities. Facilities have been used where the accompanying activity is totally dependent on specially designed facilities (e.g., golfing requires a golf course, pool swimming requires a swimming pool). Activities have been used where facilities are not essential to the pursuit of the activity. Most of these activities may be pursued with or without facilities. Where both options are a realistic possibility, the activity is preceded by an asterisk, and two symbols are given. The first symbol refers to the activity without supporting facilities; the second, to the activity with facilities. For those activities not preceded by an asterisk, special facilities are not normally required (e.g., orienteering, historical appreciation) or are at a minimal level and are covered elsewhere (e.g., canoeing). In all cases, the development of any facilities will be at a level appropriate to the zone in question and subject to the general development policies for each zone. This list of activities and facilities is not, however, intended to be exhaustive.

Symbols

- Y - Normally encouraged in this zone.
- M - May be encouraged in this zone in certain parks of this class where appropriate.
- Blank - Not compatible with this zone; if now exists, a non-conforming use which will be phased out.
- a - If authentic to the Historical Zone.

Zones

Activities and Facilities

- Arboretums
- Archery facilities (temporary)
- *Angling
- *Boating (ice)
- * (powered)

D	A	W	NR	H	NE
	Y / M M /	Y / M /	M / M /	M / M /	

Figure 6 cont'd

	D	A	W	NR	H	NE
Campgrounds (car)		M				
(boat-in or walk-in)		M				
(group, day)						
(group, overnight)		M				
(back-country campsites)			Y			
Canoeing		Y	Y	M	M	
* Cycling		Y/M				
Demonstration areas (demonstration farms, logging exhibits, etc.)						
Dog trials						
Golf courses						
* Hiking		Y/M	Y/M	Y/M	Y/M	
Historical appreciation		M	Y	M	M	
* Horseback trail riding						
* Hunting						
* Ice skating		Y/	Y/	M/	M/	
Kite flying		Y	Y	M	M	
* Model aircraft flying						
* Model boat operation						
Nature appreciation		Y	Y	M	M	
Orienteering		Y	Y	M	M	
Outfitting services		M				
Painting		Y	Y	M	M	
Parkways for pleasure driving						
Performing arts						
Photography		Y	Y	M	M	
Picnic grounds		M				
Playing fields, open space						
Playgrounds						
Recreation programmes (organized)						
Religious programmes (organized)						
Resorts						
Restaurants and food services						
Roller skating rinks						
* Sailing		M/	M/	M/	M/	
Shooting facilities (temporary)						
* Scuba and skin diving		M/	M/	M/	M/	
* Skiing (cross country)		Y/	Y/	M/	M/	
* (downhill)						
* Sledding		Y/	Y/	M/	M/	
* Snowmobiling						
Snowshoeing		Y	Y	M	M	
* Swimming		Y/Y	Y/	M/	M/	
Swimming pools and lakes (artificial)						
Tennis courts						
* Trail biking						

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PART IV DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

4. Visitor Services

a) Information

A high quality public information service, using print, audiovisual, and display media and personal contact, will be essential for each Park. This service will be directed towards providing information on back-country travel in order to enhance the ability of the user to complete the route safely and successfully and explore and appreciate its resources. Detailed information will be provided to potential users prior to their departure for the Park as required. Orientation centres and outfitting facilities in Access Zones will complement this function. Information will also be directed towards interested non-users (see Interpretation, below). The term "Wilderness Park" will be incorporated into the name of the Park for public identification purposes wherever possible. All brochures, maps, Park signs, etc. will indicate this designation; for example, Quetico Provincial Wilderness Park.

b) Interpretation

Prior information, and interpretive programmes and facilities in Access Zones or on access routes outside Park boundaries, will provide visitors with opportunities to learn and experience the character and significance of individual Wilderness Parks and the meaning and purpose of wilderness within Ontario's society and culture. Printed material, low-key, self-use facilities, and informal personal contact will be the primary means of interpretation. No interpretive facilities will be provided in Wilderness, Nature Reserve, or Historical Zones, as the printed material and the Access Zone experience which users bring with them will allow them to create their own experience.

The Wilderness Park experience can also be interpreted to the large majority of residents who are not wilderness users. Some of these are potential wilderness users; most will never actually visit these remote areas, but can still gain satisfaction from knowing that they exist. Articles, books, broadcasts, and films disseminated by both public and private agencies can interpret the Wilderness Park experience to the general public without generating excessive use of Wilderness Parks themselves.

c) Recreation Programmes

Recreation programmes will not take place in Wilderness Parks.

d) Outdoor Education

Wilderness Parks will not normally be used for outdoor education.

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5. Scientific Research

Scientific research by qualified individuals, which contributes to knowledge of natural and cultural history, and to environmental and recreational management of wilderness, will be encouraged in Wilderness Parks.

All research programmes will require the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and must also meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation. The Ministry may approve the removal of faunal and floral specimens, soil and geological samples, and archaeological and historical artifacts by qualified researchers. All such materials removed remain the property of the Ministry. Approved research activities and facilities will be compatible with protection values and recreational uses in individual parks, and will be subject to development and management policies for Wilderness Parks unless special permission is given. Sites altered by research activities will be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible.

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ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

NATURE RESERVES

NATURE RESERVES

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NATURE RESERVES
INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Provincial Parks system is:

To provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural, and recreational environments, in a system of Provincial Parks.

The objectives of the Provincial Parks system are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Protection
Objective | <i>To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.</i> |
| 2. Recreation
Objective | <i>To provide Provincial Park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.</i> |
| 3. Heritage
Appreciation
Objective | <i>To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.</i> |
| 4. Tourism
Objective | <i>To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.</i> |

The six classes of Provincial Parks together achieve these objectives. *Nature Reserves* are areas selected to represent the distinctive natural habitats and landforms of the Province, and are protected for educational purposes and as gene pools for research to benefit present and future generations. *Nature Reserves* contribute principally to the achievement of the protection and heritage appreciation objectives.

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1. Historical Background

The need for the preservation of natural areas is directly related to the spread of human population and technology, the overwhelming trend towards specialized resource uses, and the resulting stress on natural ecosystems on earth. The origins of activities directed towards the preservation of natural areas can be traced at least as far back as the 17th century. Most European countries have evolved complex programmes for natural areas preservation. One such example is the Nature Conservancy Council in Great Britain, a government agency devoted to the preservation of areas of earth and life science significance and to a comprehensive programme of ecological research relating to the systematic identification and management of such areas.

The first significant step towards an international programme for natural areas preservation was initiated in 1948, under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the founding of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (I.U.C.N.). This independent body represents a cooperative effort of national governments and preservation organizations. It has as its goal the preservation of species, including the widest possible range of their genetic varieties, and of the biotic communities and ecosystems of which they form a part.

The early efforts of the I.U.C.N., along with growing awareness of disturbing environmental changes in the late 1950s and early 1960s, played a significant role in bringing UNESCO into sponsorship of an international biological review.

Beginning with planning and surveys in 1963, the United Nations, with the cooperation of national governments throughout the world, initiated the International Biological Programme (I.B.P.). The Conservation of Terrestrial Ecosystems component (I.B.P.-C.T.) of the I.B.P. had among its objectives:

"the compilation of a world-wide inventory list of habitats, based on their broad ecological characteristics and their interest to biology and conservation;

"a review of the representation of these habitats in protected natural areas throughout the world, showing the location, area protected, and degree of protection;

"a review of habitats which were unprotected or insufficiently protected and within which additional projects for suitable protection needed to be developed

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to ensure that adequate representative samples of them would be demarcated and preserved."

The I.B.P.-C.T. concluded in 1974. It succeeded in focussing worldwide attention on the need for preserving representative habitats, and stimulated many related programmes and legislation in participating nations.

Planning for I.B.P.-C.T. in Canada commenced in 1964, and extensive field work was carried out between 1967 and 1974 with the support of the National Research Council and the federal Departments of the Environment and Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Over 900 potential ecological reserves were inventoried under the Canadian I.B.P.-C.T. programme, representing one of the most outstanding achievements among the participating nations. These efforts are now being continued through the Associate Committee for Ecological Reserves, funded by the National Research Council.

With the approaching conclusion of the I.B.P., UNESCO initiated in 1970 the Man and the Biosphere Programme (M.A.B.), which in many respects constitutes a follow-up to the I.B.P. The M.A.B. programme focusses on the structure and functioning of the biosphere and its ecological regions, the changes brought about by man in the biosphere and its resources, the overall effects of these changes upon the human species, and the education and information which need to be provided on these matters. Coordinated research on a worldwide network of national parks, biological reserves, and other protected areas is one of its more specific objectives.

As part of its interest in man-environment relationships, UNESCO sponsored in 1972 the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Sweden. The Conference reached agreement on 26 principles concerning the human environment. Principle 2 states:

"The natural resources of the earth including the air, water, land, flora and fauna and especially representative samples of natural ecosystems must be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning or management, as appropriate".

In Canada, National and Provincial Parks, although now widely recognized as significant natural science reserves, originated in the late 19th century mainly as resource

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conservation areas, health resorts, and monuments of national beauty. In the 20th century, both federal and provincial governments have established a number of natural research areas, usually associated with professional studies in forestry and wildlife. Only in the 1960s, as a result of the stimulus of the I.B.P.-C.T., did a systematic approach to the representation and preservation of Canada's natural features and communities begin to evolve. This recent movement has been reflected in a number of significant events at the national, provincial, and public interest group levels, in addition to the I.B.P.-C.T. activities.

At the national level, the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has developed a systematic approach towards the establishment of future national parks, incorporating national landform, terrestrial, and aquatic elements among its identification and evaluation criteria. Also, the Canadian Institute of Forestry has established a Natural Areas Committee. One of this committee's objectives is the development of a national registration system for natural areas, and the promotion of systematic representation of forest types in Canada for research and educational purposes.

The provinces have also made significant efforts towards the protection and preservation of natural features. Here British Columbia and Ontario can be singled out as playing leadership roles.

Under Ontario's Wilderness Areas Act (1960), 39 small but significant natural areas had been reserved by the end of 1977. The Provincial Parks classification scheme of 1967 outlined an objective and a programme for the designation of Nature Reserves and Natural Zones under The Provincial Parks Act. 11 Nature Reserves, and a large number of Natural Zones in Provincial Parks of other classes, had been so designated by the end of 1977. Subsequently, The Endangered Species Act (1971) further enhanced the Province's ability to protect its natural heritage.

British Columbia, in 1971, enacted an Ecological Reserves Act, the first specific legislation of its type in Canada, and over 100 reserves have been placed in regulation. Alberta, Quebec, and New Brunswick have more recently passed ecological reserves legislation, and New Brunswick also has an Endangered Species Act.

Outside of governments, preservation minded public interest groups have provided much impetus to the preservation of natural areas. In Ontario, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada have made particularly noteworthy contributions through raising funds and buying lands worthy of preservation, some of which have been given to various appropriate public agencies.

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These groups have also frequently been successful in lobbying for increased government efforts, and in promoting greater public understanding of the importance of preservation. As well, many interested individuals have foregone more economic uses of their properties in order to preserve valuable natural features on those lands.

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2. The Need for Nature Reserves

Our earth is about four and a half billion years old. Its geology and landforms have been constantly developing and evolving during that time. Of all natural features, bedrock evolves at the slowest pace; and yet the crust of the earth is constantly changing as old rock is deformed and new rock is created. In the million or so years of human occupation, the bedrock has not changed appreciably over most of the earth's surface. However, only scattered evidence remains of the early stages in the planet's formation billions of years ago.

Surface landforms usually evolve more rapidly. Many of them have changed dramatically during the relatively short period of human occupation. Glaciation in particular has wrought great changes in northern regions over the last million years. Wind and water continue to erode, transport, and deposit surface materials. Around us is much evidence of these recent processes, as well as evidence of other geomorphological processes active long before glaciation.

Life began to develop in the seas about three billion years ago and has been evolving ever since. Most of the organisms that have lived on this planet are now extinct. Many of those which we now know, including man, have developed in their present form only within the last million or so years. The fate of all species lies in their ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions. A species either adapts to environmental change, and in so doing changes its genetic composition or behaviour or both, or it becomes extinct.

Bedrock, landforms, climate, microorganisms, plants, and animals: all are interrelated in a complex web of existence. Each affects the others to produce the continually changing pattern of the natural world. The components of the natural world are interdependent. If a component is destroyed, the natural world will not necessarily collapse, but it will be structurally weakened. Gradual evolution has often permitted rearrangement and replacement of components without drastic effects.

Catastrophic change is also part of natural evolution. The natural order seems to be able to accommodate such phenomena as the drastic climate changes of glaciation, or the emergence or destruction of land through volcanism, as part of the probabilities of life on earth. Even these catastrophic changes have for the most part taken place over thousands or millions of years, allowing sufficient time for adaptation to changing conditions. This adaptation has permitted the survival and continued evolution of a sufficient proportion of our natural heritage to allow the perpetuation of life on earth.

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Man, a latecomer on this scene, has only within the past few thousand years developed the powers to bring about catastrophic changes on a scale which was formerly reserved for natural processes. The explosion in the past few centuries of human population, knowledge, technology, economic activity, and natural resource exploitation has seriously outdistanced the lengthy process of terrestrial evolution and natural selection. These human effects endanger many of the components of the natural world on which man's existence depends. The rate of extinction of animal species by man continues to increase. Close to 400 bird and mammal species and subspecies have become extinct since 1600, at least three-quarters of these due to human action, and about 800 more are thought to be critically endangered. Several thousand flowering plant species are thought to be in danger of extinction at this time. Even examples of resistant landforms once thought indestructible have recently become much rarer.

If any geological or landform type, or plant or animal species or community, is destroyed or seriously modified, it can never be recreated or replaced. Were any of man's great creations such as Michelangelo's David or the Pyramid of Gizeh to be destroyed tomorrow, they could be recreated relatively faithfully. However, no technology will be able to bring back any of nature's creations such as the small white lady's slipper orchid, the peregrine falcon, or the eastern cougar, all now near extinction (and all designated under Ontario's Endangered Species Act), once they are gone. The value of this heritage cannot be calculated. The evolution of our planet which sustains man depends upon the diversity of natural features built up over billions of years. Many features which we do not recognize as valuable today may be invaluable tomorrow.

Nature Reserves are only one facet of the coordinated strategy which is required to preserve and maintain the earth as a fit home for man and all the other forms of life with whom he shares the planet and upon whom he depends for survival. Nature Reserves are legally protected areas which protect and maintain representative and special natural features and processes for their aesthetic, interpretive, educational, and scientific value. The protection of wilderness areas, of open space, and of recreational resources; the control of pollution and the maintenance of environmental quality; the curbing of population growth, resource depletion, and technological explosion; all are essential, but separate, strategies for maintaining the fitness of our earth. Nature Reserves are one strategy with one set of clearly defined ends. Nature Reserves will not by themselves ensure a future in which man is interdependent with, rather than infringing on, the other components of the natural world; but they will help.

Nature Reserves help to protect evidence of our geological and biological history. Earth science features tell of the origin and structure of the planet, of climatic change ranging from ice

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ages to tropical conditions, of marine seas and vast inland lakes, and of long extinct, fossilized and petrified plant and animal forms. Life science features show the evolution of life on this planet, from relic microorganisms, plants, and animals largely unchanged over hundreds of millions of years, to highly sophisticated, relatively recent species and communities.

Nature Reserves help to ensure the perpetuation of healthy, viable stocks of nature's raw materials which could be of considerable scientific benefit in the future. Many plants and animals have existing resource uses for food, medicines, chemicals or fibres, or scientific uses for chemical, biological, or medical research. New uses continue to be discovered, and protection helps to ensure the continued availability of yet untapped species, and of ancestral stocks of many domesticated species for which new varieties may need to be developed.

Most management of renewable natural resources, such as forestry and agriculture, modifies ecosystems to produce specific products or benefits. Nature Reserves, protecting a diversity of natural ecosystems for scientific study, may act as control areas in programmes designed to increase the effectiveness of existing resource management techniques and develop new ones. Similarly Nature Reserves can act as benchmark or baseline areas for scientific studies aimed at expanding our basic knowledge of the functioning of natural processes, and of the impact of human activities on these processes. Many of these studies may require decades in a controlled environment to produce useful results, and accordingly the security and permanence of legally established Nature Reserves are major factors in their favour. Such research provides the understanding and data on which better use and management of our earth can be based.

In short, natural environments contain values as yet unknown which we will never be able to estimate or predict. To destroy the potential to use any of these values in future is to reduce the economic, social, scientific, and technological options available to human society in the future.

Nature Reserves provide opportunities for natural science education related to the features and communities which they protect. They are a necessary complement to classroom education, laboratory research, and individual reading programmes. Nature Reserves also provide opportunities for quiet appreciation and enjoyment. They provide open space for appropriate forms of outdoor recreation and natural science appreciation, such as walking for pleasure, painting, photography, and nature study.

Most important of all, Nature Reserves help to maintain the right of some of our natural features and communities to continue to exist and evolve as they have since long before man developed

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his powers of domination. They protect evidence of a creation and an evolution which overwhelms even man, which preceded him and will follow him, which has determined his history and will dictate his destiny. They provide man with a measuring stick which he too often forgets is there.

Ontario's vast natural heritage may seem relatively secure. Such is not the case. In Southern Ontario, the original forest stands have almost entirely diminished to isolated woodlots. Much of the remaining vegetation is threatened by urbanization, and by modern agricultural practices which eliminate or severely alter woodlots and hedgerows. Many Great Lakes wetlands have been filled in or dredged. The heritage of glacial landform features continues to be consumed by roads, urban development, and industrial mineral extraction. In Northern Ontario, new mines, new timber cutting operations, new hydroelectric developments, and new roads cut into remaining unexploited areas.

Opportunities to protect many of Ontario's representative landscapes and the life forms which they support are diminishing. Several plant and animal species have been eliminated from Ontario and a number of others are critically endangered. The identification and dedication of a system of natural features and communities representative of the Ontario environment is a pressing priority. Ontario needs a system of Nature Reserves and Nature Reserve Zones to serve as a key element of these protection efforts.

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3. A Policy for Nature Reserves

Nature Reserves are areas selected to represent the distinctive natural habitats and landforms of the Province, and are protected for educational purposes and as gene pools for research to benefit present and future generations.

Nature Reserves protect and perpetuate distinctive earth and life science features and communities representative of Ontario's natural heritage. Where necessary and desirable, features may be managed so as to ensure perpetuation of the values (for example, a particular stage of succession) for which the Reserve was established. Otherwise, natural succession is permitted to occur without human interference. Principal activities are those which within strict management constraints can further scientific and visitor understanding. The absolute minimum of facilities necessary to support these activities is provided.

Nature Reserves can be viewed as "benchmark" areas against which the effects of human management of natural environments elsewhere can be measured. Viable natural communities and landscape features are protected so that they will be available in the future both for their intrinsic value and for their potential scientific application to the betterment of mankind. The features which Nature Reserves protect range from the spectacular to the seemingly commonplace. But each Nature Reserve enhances appreciation of all the natural features which it contains, and of their intricate relationship with each other and with ourselves.

The Nature Reserve class of parks contributes to the achievement of the following objectives of the Provincial Parks system by:

<u>Protection</u>	<u>Protecting a system of provincially significant</u>
<u>Objective:</u>	<u>special and representative earth and life science</u>
	<u>features.</u>

A wide range of earth and life science features will be represented in order to ensure the protection and perpetuation of genetic materials and natural conditions. The system for representation is defined in Part II of this document.

<u>Heritage</u>	a) <u>Providing opportunities for unstructured</u>
<u>Appreciation</u>	<u>individual exploration and appreciation of</u>
<u>Objective:</u>	<u>the earth and life science heritage of</u>
	<u>Ontario.</u>

Individual exploration and appreciation will be encouraged compatible with and complementary to protection of earth and life science features.

NATURE RESERVES

PART I

A NATURE RESERVES POLICY FOR ONTARIO

- b) Providing opportunities for exploration and appreciation of natural environments through interpretation and education based upon the character and significance of Nature Reserves.

Interpretive and educational programmes will be developed compatible with and complementary to protection of earth and life science features.

NATURE RESERVES

PART II

SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

1. Representation

Nature Reserves will represent a diverse range of earth and life science features in Ontario. In establishing Nature Reserves, the target is to represent each of the past environments of the Province through its earth science features, and each vegetative site type found in each of the site regions of the Province. This representation will be achieved through Nature Reserves, Wilderness Parks, and Nature Reserve and Wilderness Zones in parks of other classes; and through significant natural areas protected by other public agencies, public interest groups, and interested private individuals.

The representation of earth science features is based upon internationally recognized concepts for the classification of earth history adapted to Ontario. From the creation of the planet to the present day, a succession of environments have shaped what is now Ontario. Each of these past environments was characterized by distinctive geological and geomorphological processes, distinctive climate conditions, and distinctive plant and animal life or its absence. This succession of past environments is organized into a broad framework commonly called the geological time scale (see Figure 1).

With each of these past environments are associated certain specific earth science features. These features may be classified in several ways.

1. Lithostratigraphic classification organizes earth science history on the basis of the distinctive physical characteristics of layers or strata of rock.
2. Biostratigraphic classification organizes earth science history on the basis of the distinctive plant and animal remains found within rock strata.
3. Geoclimatic classification organizes earth science history on the basis of distinctive climates affecting geomorphological and geological processes and the deposition of plant and animal remains.
4. Landform classification organizes earth science history on the basis of distinctive types of surface features which were formed in particular past environments and are being formed in the present day environment.

FIGURE 1
GEOLOGICAL TIME SCALE

[illegible]

NATURE RESERVES
PART II
SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

Thus, with each past environment is associated certain distinctive lithostratigraphic, biostratigraphic, geoclimatic, and landform features formed within a discrete period of geological time. In practice, some classifications are more adaptable than others to specific time periods. For example, geoclimatic and landform classifications are most adaptable to the last one million years, a period in which Ontario was dominated by glaciation. Geoclimatic classification distinguishes discrete cold periods of glacial advance and warm periods of glacial recession. Landform classification distinguishes glacial landform types such as moraines, eskers, beaches, drumlins, etc. Lithostratigraphic and biostratigraphic classifications are most adaptable to the Phanerozoic (post-Precambrian) periods, in which rock strata and formations may be readily distinguished. The diagnostic importance of fossils emphasizes biostratigraphic classification in the Phanerozoic. Lithostratigraphic classification is also adaptable to the Precambrian, where few if any fossil remains may be distinguished. The target is to represent each past environment of the Province through earth science features representative of the lithostratigraphic, biostratigraphic, geoclimatic, and landform classifications associated with that environment.

The earth sciences framework outlined here is a tentative one. With knowledge of the earth sciences constantly expanding, further classification concepts may emerge which require recognition. Also, the number of past environments and their associated classifications known to exist in Ontario and thus requiring representation will undoubtedly increase on the basis of new research and analysis. Therefore, the number of environments and classifications requiring representation can only be guessed at at this time. In some cases, more than one environment or classification can be represented on the same site. In particular, lithostratigraphic and biostratigraphic classifications may often be coincidental. On the other hand, geoclimatic and landform classifications may require protection of a number of widely dispersed features for comprehensive representation. Where necessary, units may be represented more than once to guard against unforeseen destructive forces.

The representation of life science features is based upon a classification of the vegetative site types found in each of the site regions of the Province. Ontario is divided into 13 site regions on the basis of biological productivity criteria. Each site region is an area of relatively uniform effective climate and is therefore an area of particular biological productivity characteristics. In each site region, soil, climate, and living organisms interact in a particular way. The 13 site regions are illustrated in Figures 2 and 3.

FIGURE 2

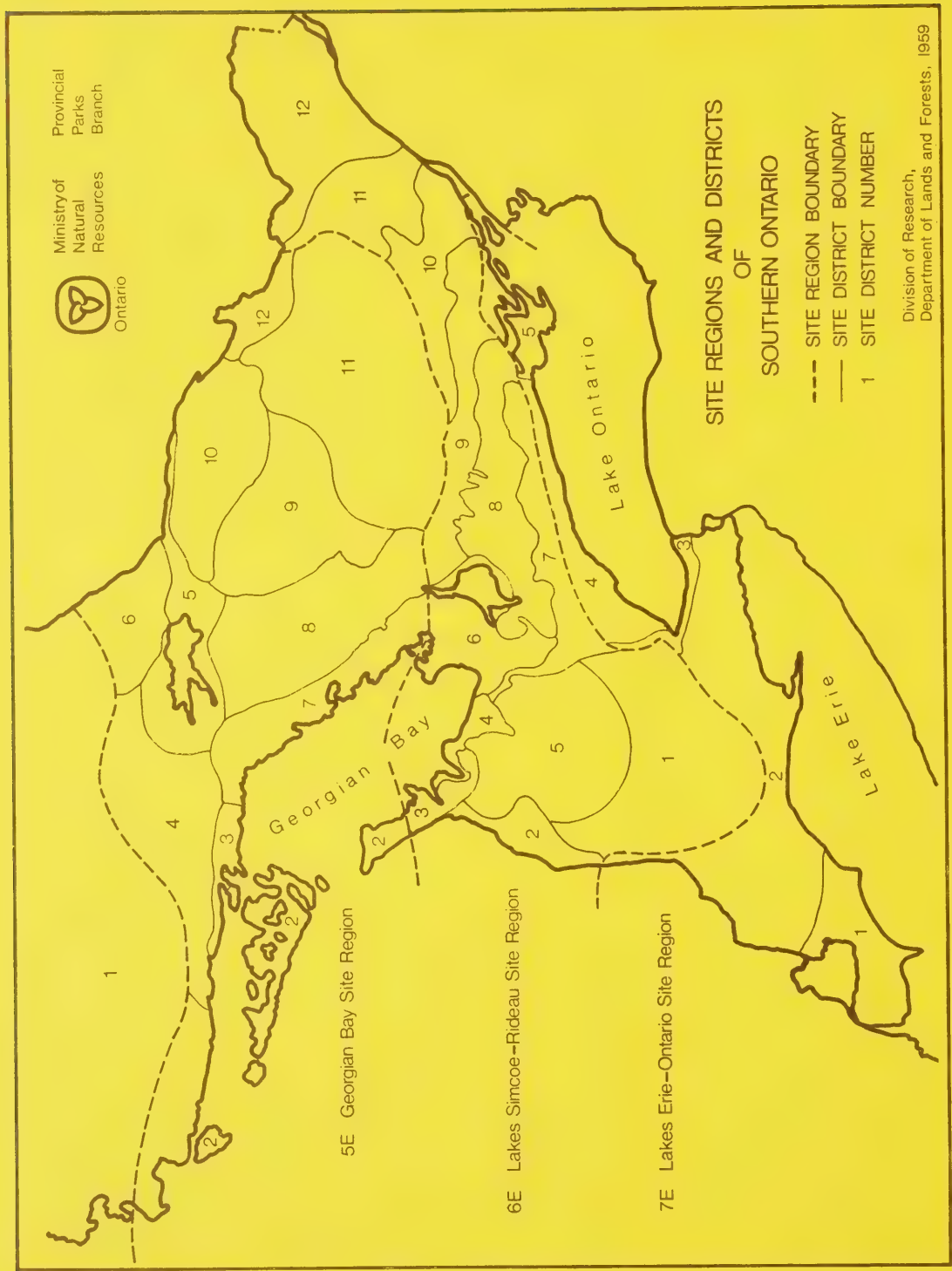
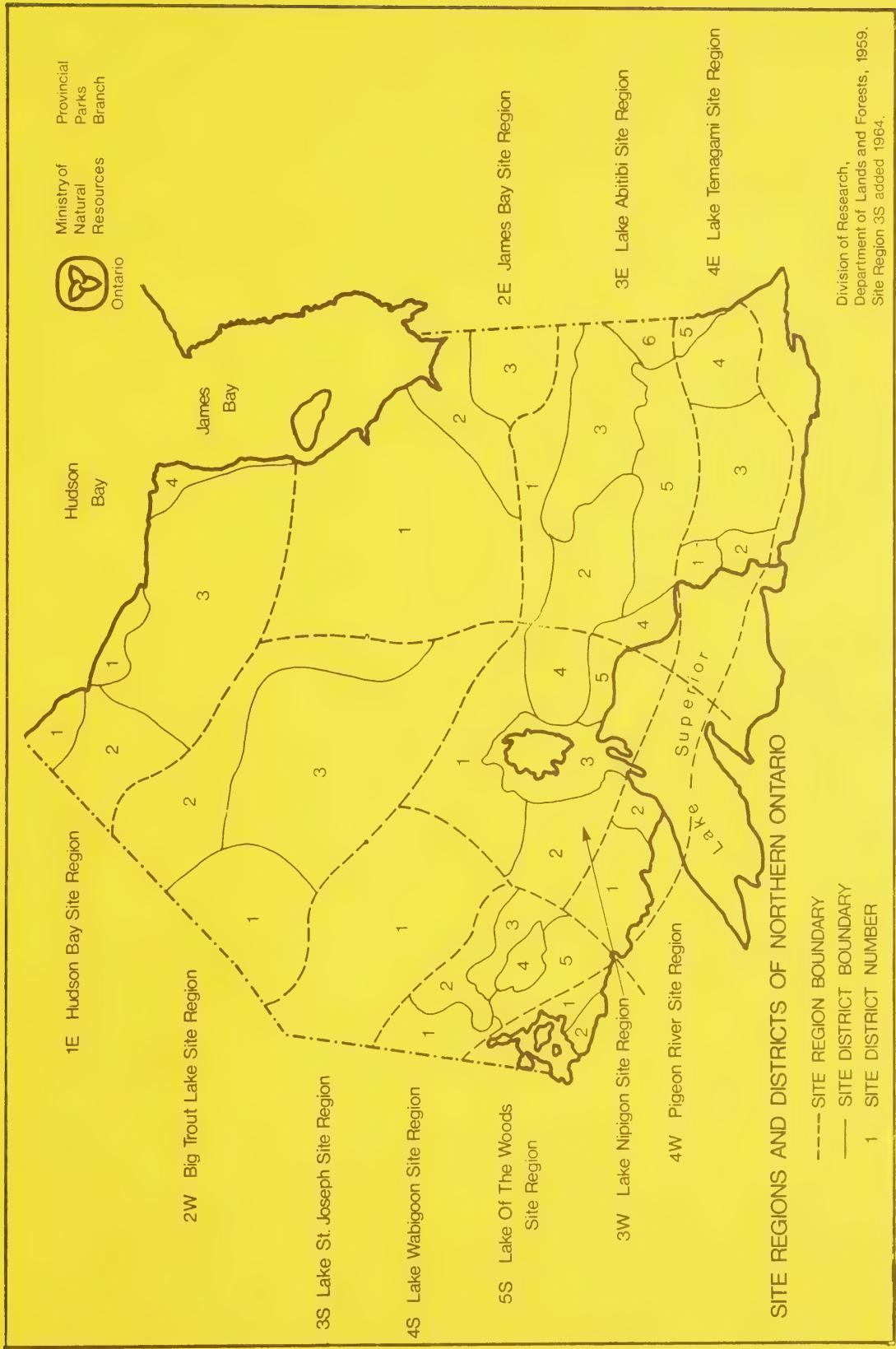


FIGURE 3



NATURE RESERVES

PART II

SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

Within each site region, microclimate, substrate, and moisture regime, the factors controlling vegetative habitat, vary considerably from place to place. A framework has been developed which incorporates these variables into a matrix of 150 theoretical vegetative site types (see Figure 4). Any site may be classified into one of these site types on the basis of its particular microclimate, substrate, and moisture characteristics. A distinctive and characteristic association of plant species will develop on each site type existing within each of the 13 site regions (see Figure 4). The target is to represent each vegetative site type existing within each site region.

In any given site region, not all of the 150 theoretical vegetative site types actually exist. For example, in site region 3E (Lake Abitibi), of the 150 theoretical site types, only 61 have been identified through field study. In many other site regions, the number of existing site types cannot even be estimated at this time. However, further research and analysis undoubtedly will more accurately delineate site region boundaries, enumerate the existing site types within each site region, and identify the vegetation associated with individual site types.

A distinctive site type on which distinctive and characteristic vegetation will develop is by extension a distinctive habitat for animal species. Certain associations of animal species may be expected to be found on each distinctive site type. Hence representation of a diversity of vegetative site types is intended equally to ensure representation of a diversity of animal habitats and thus protect a diversity of animal species within Nature Reserves. In certain cases, Nature Reserves will be identified on a primarily zoological basis, in order to protect such features as breeding grounds, migration concentration points, habitats of endangered species, range extensions, etc.

The necessity for representation of aquatic environments is also recognized. Further research is required on the classification of these environments.

Where necessary, there may be a replication of site types in order to represent various stages of succession and guard against unforeseen destructive forces.

The sizes of Nature Reserves will vary substantially according to the nature and integrity of the earth and life science features to be protected. Wherever possible, Nature Reserves will include features representative of both earth and life sciences, and the relationship of these features will be emphasized. Larger Reserves will be established wherever possible to include the greatest possible diversity of representative features so as to provide settings of maximum ecological integrity and to minimize the total number of separate Reserves required. The nature of the features being protected, and the requirements of these features for adequate protection from intrusive influences, will be the prime determinants of size of individual Nature Reserves.

FIGURE 4
VEGETATIVE SITE TYPES

150 Theoretical Vegetative Site Types within each Site Region

Soil strata	Moisture regime										
		Arid	Very Dry	Dry	Dry Mesic	Mesic	Wet Mesic	Wet	Very Wet	Sat- urated	Open Water
Microfines	Rock										
	Sand										
	Loam										
	Clay										
	Organic										
Normal	Rock										
	Sand										
	Loam										
	Clay										
	Organic										
Warmer	Rock										
	Sand										
	Loam										
	Clay										
	Organic										

Sample for shaded area above - Site Types and Associated Vegetation existing in Site Region 7E (Lakes Erie - Ontario)

	(Wet)	(Very Wet)	(Saturated)
(Normal)-Rock		Cobble Beach Community - Muhlenbergia mexicana - Bidens cernua - Salix rigida - Lythrum salicaria - Eupatorium maculatum	
(Normal)-Sand	1Acer saccharinum ¹¹ - Ulmus americana ¹⁰ - Acer rubrum ¹⁰ - Deciduous Forest 16 1Acer saccharinum - Betula lutea - Ulmus americana - Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Fraxinus nigra - Deciduous Forest 1Quercus macrocarpa - Ulmus americana - Populus tremuloides - Deciduous Forest 1Quercus bicolor - Acer saccharinum - Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Fraxinus nigra - Deciduous Forest 1Betula lutea - Acer saccharinum - Fraxinus nigra - Ulmus americana - Deciduous Forest	1Tall Lowland Thicket - Cornus obliqua - Salix sp 1Tall Lowland Thicket - Cornus obliqua - Salix sp	1Barren Sedge Marsh - Calamagrostis canadensis - Carex aquatilis - Scirpus acutus
(Normal)-Loam	1Fraxinus americana ¹⁰ - Acer saccharinum ¹⁰ - Ulmus americana ¹¹ - Acer rubrum ¹⁰ - Deciduous Forest 18 1Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Quercus bicolor - Deciduous Forest 1Salix fragilis - Peltandra occidentalis - Juglans nigra - Deciduous Forest	1Willow Carr - Salix rigida - Salix interior 1Wet Meadow - Peltandra occidentalis - Calamagrostis canadensis - Impatiens capensis - Verbena hastata - Urtica dioica	

Note: The numbers following certain species indicate their relative importance in forest composition of the site type.

NATURE RESERVES

PART II

SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

2. Evaluation

Potential Nature Reserves will require evaluation of the quality and integrity of their earth and life science features and of the ability of those features to represent the earth science history of the Province and the life science diversity of the site regions of the Province.

Prospective areas will be evaluated for their historical significance and for the presence of any special and representative landscape related historical resources.

Except where human disturbance has exposed natural features or enhanced their scientific and educational interest, areas which have evolved in a totally natural context will be given priority over areas which have been subject to various degrees of human manipulation. Areas will be selected which can best be protected from the influence of external use and development.

The physiographic and ecological integrity of prospective areas will be evaluated. Nature Reserves should be as ecologically self-contained as possible, and consequently should be bounded by natural features whenever possible. Potential boundaries should include adequate area to buffer the core ecosystems from intrusive influences.

Priority will be given to qualifying areas where Nature Reserve potential is in any danger of deterioration due to lack of protection.

Economic activities and potentials associated with alternative land and resource uses will be considered and thoroughly evaluated.

NATURE RESERVES

PART III

MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

2. Land and Water Uses

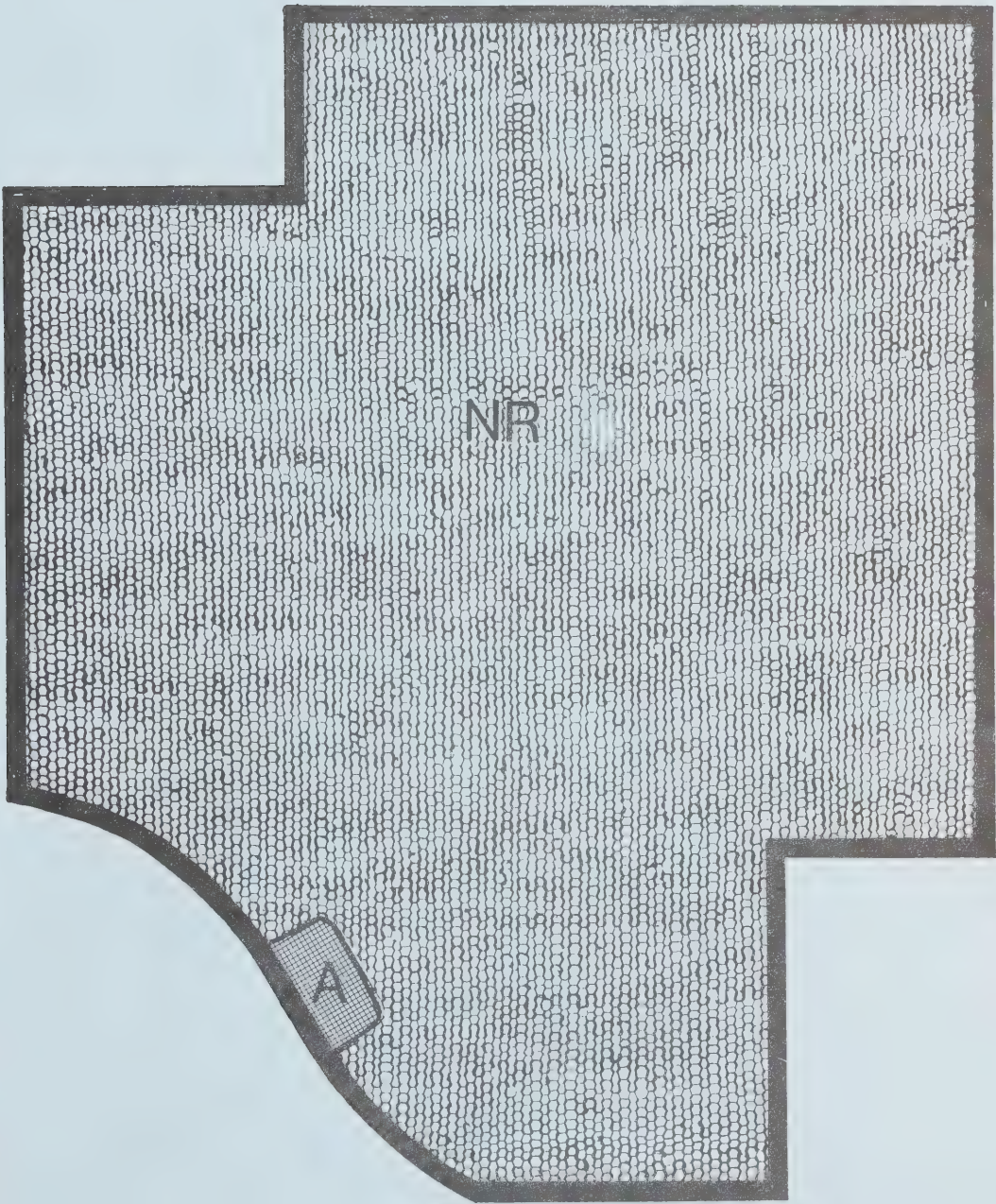
All alienated lands and waters within the boundaries of Nature Reserves will be acquired. All physical improvements on acquired lands will be removed, unless they are in a location and of such design as to be of value for park management or visitor services, or unless they are significant to the Reserve's history or complementary to its cultural landscape. Lands will not be leased for the private use of individuals or corporations.

In any Nature Reserve, non-conforming land and water, resource, or recreational uses may exist at the time of its designation. Such uses will be identified as non-conforming uses in the Master Plan for the Reserve. No further expansion of these uses will be permitted. Provided that they are not demonstrably incompatible with the Reserve and the zone within which they are situated, such uses will be permitted to continue until the lands are acquired, the uses disappear through normal processes, or equal opportunities for such uses are provided elsewhere.

The master planning and development and management policies set out in this document are without prejudice to, and may be superseded by, any settlements of claims made between the Ontario Government and Indian bands in Ontario.

FIGURE 5

HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE OF ZONING
IN NATURE RESERVES



NATURE RESERVES

PART III

MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

A Master Plan will be prepared for each Nature Reserve. Each Master Plan will establish detailed policy guidelines for the Reserve's long term protection, development, and management. Each Master Plan will be prepared in accordance with Master Planning and Public Participation Guidelines, issued by Provincial Parks Branch.

1. Zoning

Lands and waters within each Nature Reserve will be zoned so that they may be allocated to their most appropriate use relative to the Reserve. Nature Reserves always include Nature Reserve Zones, and may also include Access and Historical Zones. Figure 5 illustrates a hypothetical example of zoning in Nature Reserves.

Nature Reserve Zones include the significant earth and life science features of the Reserve, as well as a protective buffer, in which there is an absolute minimum of development.

Access Zones serve as staging areas where minimum facilities support use of Nature Reserve Zones. There normally will be only one such zone in any individual Reserve.

Historical Zones include any significant historical resources which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones.

NATURE RESERVES

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

1. Development

The location, design, and materials of all facilities constructed within Nature Reserves will, to the maximum extent possible, reflect the environmental character of individual Reserves. All development will be carried out in accordance with approved site plans and development plans.

Nature Reserve Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, minimal interpretive facilities, and temporary facilities for research and management.

Access Zones: Development will be limited to roads, visitor control structures, basic day-use facilities, group car campgrounds where appropriate, and orientation, interpretive, educational, research, and management facilities. Any group car campgrounds will be developed to a basic standard and normally will be for the use of educational and scientific groups only.

Historical Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, minimal interpretive facilities, and temporary facilities for research and management.

NATURE RESERVES

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

2. Environmental Management

a) Earth and Life Science Values

The earth and life science values of individual Nature Reserve Zones require scientifically based management policies in order that they best contribute to Parks System objectives. Management policies for individual Nature Reserve Zones will be defined through, and will be a key part of, the Master Plan for each Reserve. Monitoring programmes will be developed for systematic review of the impact and effectiveness of management policies and the revision of these policies as necessary.

Management objectives and policies for individual Nature Reserve Zones will fall into two distinct categories. The category practiced in an individual Reserve will depend upon the significant earth and life science values present.

Certain Nature Reserve Zones will protect natural features and conditions in an undisturbed state. Natural processes such as naturally occurring fires, insect and disease outbreaks, erosion, and so on, which alter existing features will dominate. Human alteration of any kind will be excluded, except where necessary to replicate natural processes such as fire, which have been forestalled by external intervention. These zones will not be appropriate for the protection of particular stages of successional vegetation, successional animal life, or geomorphological change, unless the perpetuation of those stages is assured by the action of recurrent natural disturbances. Thus a deciduous forest located in such a zone might well disappear through its natural replacement by a coniferous forest.

Other Nature Reserve Zones will protect natural features and conditions which require specific resource management for their perpetuation in a particular evolutionary stage where this is a desirable objective. Natural processes may be controlled in order to perpetuate natural features and conditions. Thus forest conditions which provide suitable habitat for a certain animal species might be artificially perpetuated in order to perpetuate that habitat.

Whichever category of management policies is practiced, management in Nature Reserve Zones will be directed solely to the achievement of protection, heritage appreciation, and scientific research objectives.

NATURE RESERVES

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

b) Lands and Waters

Commercial mineral exploration and extraction will not be permitted.

No new utility lines or rights-of-way may be developed, except those required for servicing the Park which may be developed in Access Zones only.

Reserve user solid waste and sewage will be disposed outside the Reserve.

Waters will not be controlled except for the perpetuation of natural features and conditions where desirable. Otherwise, no new water control structures may be built; and existing structures will be removed or allowed to deteriorate, unless they are essential for water control outside the Reserve, or their removal would result in an environmental impact more adverse than their retention.

c) Flora

Management of flora will be directed to the maintenance of an evolving natural succession unless alternative strategies are desirable.

Commercial forest operations will not be permitted. Where trees are removed for development or management purposes in Access Zones, they may be marketed if economic.

Agricultural practices will not be permitted except for the perpetuation of natural features and conditions where desirable.

Non-native plant species will not be deliberately introduced. Where they are already established and threaten Reserve values, a management programme for their eradication may be developed. Missing native species may be re-established if biologically feasible and acceptable, normally only where necessary to perpetuate the natural values for which the Reserve has been established. Fertilizers may not be used except in Access Zones.

The occurrence of natural fire is recognized as a process integral to an evolving natural succession in certain cases, or to the perpetuation of existing vegetative conditions in other cases. Natural fires in Nature Reserve and Historical Zones normally will be allowed to burn undisturbed unless they threaten human life, Access Zones, lands outside the Reserve, or the values for which the Nature Reserve or Historical Zones have been established. Prescribed burning may be carried out in Nature Reserve Zones to simulate

NATURE RESERVES

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

natural fire when desirable. Fires in Access Zones, and fires resulting from human causes in other zones, will be suppressed. Fire suppression techniques used will have as minimal effect as possible on the Reserve's environment. Such means of suppression as bulldozing, and water bombing with chemical additives, will not be permitted except in critical situations.

The occurrence in a Nature Reserve of forest and vegetative insects and diseases native to the forest region in which the Nature Reserve is situated is recognized as an integral component of the Reserve's ecology. Native insects and diseases in Nature Reserve and Historical Zones normally will be allowed to develop undisturbed. Native insects and diseases threatening the values for which Nature Reserves or Historical Zones have been established, or values outside the Park, will be controlled where feasible. Insects and diseases not native to a Reserve's forest region will be controlled where feasible. Where control is desirable, it will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease so as to have minimal effects on other components of the Reserve's environment. Biological control will be used wherever feasible.

d) Fauna

Management of fauna will be directed to the maintenance of an evolving natural succession, unless alternative strategies are desirable.

Non-native species will not be deliberately introduced. Where they are already established, a management programme for their eradication may be developed if practical and desirable for the perpetuation of the values for which the Reserve has been established. Missing native species may be re-introduced, and existing populations replenished, if biologically feasible and acceptable and if desirable for the perpetuation of the values for which the Reserve has been established.

Animal populations may be controlled when essential to protect human health and safety, the health of the species outside the Reserve, or the values for which the Reserve has been established. Where control is desirable, techniques will be used having minimal effects on other components of the Reserve's environment. Any hunting or trapping required in control will be carried out under the strict supervision of, or directly by, the Ministry of Natural Resources.

NATURE RESERVES

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Sport fishing will not be permitted in Nature Reserves.

Commercial fishing, including commercial bait fishing, will not be permitted.

Sport hunting will not be permitted. Habitats will not be managed to facilitate wildlife viewing, except where such management will contribute to the perpetuation of natural features and conditions where desirable.

Commercial trapping will not be permitted.

NATURE RESERVES

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

3. Recreation Management

A Management/Operating Plan will be prepared for each Nature Reserve, in accordance with Park Management/Operating Plan guidelines issued by Provincial Parks Branch. Each such Plan will establish detailed guidelines and procedures for the management and operation of Reserve activities and facilities.

Where such activities are compatible with and complementary to the values for which Nature Reserves have been established, low-intensity day-use activities will be encouraged which enhance appreciation of the values and natural landscapes of Nature Reserves. Recreational activities and facilities encouraged in each zone are set out in Figure 6.

Motorized land vehicles and watercraft of any kind will not be permitted, except for access purposes in Access Zones. The use of motorized transportation by the Ministry of Natural Resources will conform to these standards wherever possible.

Limits on the size of parties, and on the number of parties permitted to use designated areas at any one time, may be established in order to protect the values for which Nature Reserves have been established. Any activities may be restricted or prohibited in Nature Reserve and Historical Zones where necessary to protect those values.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES ENCOURAGED IN NATURE RESERVES

This figure shows activities and facilities encouraged in Nature Reserves, by zone. It should be noted that zones are subordinate to the Park class. Therefore activities encouraged or not permitted in an Access Zone, for example, in one class of park will not necessarily be the same as those in an Access Zone in another class.

The left hand column includes both activities and facilities. Facilities have been used where the accompanying activity is totally dependent on specially designed facilities (e.g., golfing requires a golf course, pool swimming requires a swimming pool). Activities have been used where facilities are not essential to the pursuit of the activity. Most of these activities may be pursued with or without facilities. Where both options are a realistic possibility, the activity is preceded by an asterisk, and two symbols are given. The first symbol refers to the activity without supporting facilities; the second, to the activity with facilities. For those activities not preceded by an asterisk, special facilities are not normally required (e.g., orienteering, historical appreciation) or are at a minimal level and are covered elsewhere (e.g., canoeing). In all cases, the development of any facilities will be at a level appropriate to the zone in question and subject to the general development policies for each zone. This list of activities and facilities is not, however, intended to be exhaustive.

Symbols

- | | |
|-------|--|
| Y | - Normally encouraged in this zone. |
| M | - May be encouraged in this zone in certain parks of this class where appropriate. |
| Blank | - Not compatible with this zone; if now exists, a non-conforming use which will be phased out. |
| a | - If authentic to the Historical Zone. |

Zones

Activities and Facilities

D	A	W	NR	H	NE
	M/		M/	M/	

- Arboretums
- Archery facilities (temporary)
- *Angling
- *Boating (ice)
- * (powered)

Figure 6 cont'd

	D	A	W	NR	H	NE
Campgrounds (car) (boat-in or walk-in) (group, day) (group, overnight) (back-country campsites)		M				
Canoeing		M		M	M	
* Cycling		Y/				
Demonstration areas (demonstration farms, logging exhibits, etc.)						
Dog trials						
Golf courses						
* Hiking		Y/M		M/M	M/M	
Historical appreciation		M		M	M	
* Horseback trail riding						
* Hunting						
* Ice skating		Y/		M/	M/	
Kite flying		Y		M	M	
* Model aircraft flying						
* Model boat operation						
Nature appreciation		Y		M	M	
Orienteering		Y		M	M	
Outfitting services						
Painting		Y		M	M	
Parkways for pleasure driving						
Performing arts						
Photography		Y		M	M	
Picnic grounds		M				
Playing fields, open space						
Playgrounds						
Recreation programmes (organized)						
Religious programmes (organized)						
Resorts						
Restaurants and food services						
Roller skating rinks						
* Sailing		M/	.	M/	M/	
Shooting facilities (temporary)						
* Scuba and skin diving		M/		M/	M/	
* Skiing (cross country)		Y/		M/	M/	
* (downhill)						
* Sledding		Y/		M/	M/	
* Snowmobiling						
Snowshoeing		Y		M	M	
* Swimming		M/		M/	M/	
Swimming pools and lakes (artificial)						
Tennis courts						
* Trail biking						

NATURE RESERVES

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

4. Visitor Services

a) Information

A basic low-key public information system will be developed for each Nature Reserve accessible to the public. Information on the Nature Reserve system will also be directed towards the general public (see Interpretation, below). The term "Nature Reserve" will be incorporated into the name of the Reserve for public identification purposes wherever possible. All brochures, maps, Reserve signs, etc., will indicate this designation; for example, Ouimet Canyon Provincial Nature Reserve.

b) Interpretation

In Nature Reserves accessible to the public, low-intensity programmes and facilities will provide visitors with opportunities to learn and experience the character and significance of individual Reserves. The level of interpretive programmes and facilities will be appropriate to the protection values of individual Reserves. Printed material, low-key self-use facilities, and informal personal contact will be the primary means of interpretation.

The Nature Reserve system as a whole also will be interpreted to the general public including both users and non-users. The earth and life science features of the Province included in the system, the benefits of the system, and the environmental constraints on the system's use by the public, will be interpreted through mass media and other print and audiovisual media.

c) Recreation Programmes

Recreation programmes will not take place in Nature Reserves.

d) Outdoor Education

Outdoor education use of Nature Reserves will be limited to groups with a specific interest in the earth and life science features of individual Reserves. Group activities must be compatible with protection needs in individual Reserves. The environmental constraints which dictate these restrictions, and the long term benefits of imposing them, should be communicated to interested educators in a positive fashion.

NATURE RESERVES

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

5. Scientific Research

Scientific research by qualified individuals, which contributes to knowledge of natural and cultural history and to environmental management, will be encouraged in Nature Reserves.

All research programmes will require the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and must also meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation. The Ministry may approve the removal of faunal and floral specimens, soil and geological samples, and archaeological and historical artifacts by qualified researchers. All such materials removed remain the property of the Ministry. Approved research activities and facilities will be compatible with protection values and recreational uses in individual Reserves, and will be subject to development and management policies for Nature Reserves unless special permission is given. Sites altered by research activities will be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible.

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ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

HISTORICAL PARKS

HISTORICAL PARKS
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HISTORICAL PARKS INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Provincial Parks system is:

To provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural, and recreational environments, in a system of Provincial Parks.

The objectives of the Provincial Parks system are:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Protection
Objective | <i>To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.</i> |
| 2. | Recreation
Objective | <i>To provide Provincial Park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.</i> |
| 3. | Heritage
Appreciation
Objective | <i>To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.</i> |
| 4. | Tourism
Objective | <i>To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.</i> |

The six classes of Provincial Parks together achieve these objectives. *Historical Parks are areas selected to represent the distinctive historical resources of the Province in an open space setting, and are protected for interpretive, educational, and research purposes. Historical Parks contribute principally to the achievement of the protection and heritage appreciation objectives.*

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART I

A HISTORICAL PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

2. The Need for Historical Parks

In our ever more changing society there is a growing need for Ontarians to search in their past for identity, continuity, and stability. If this need is to be satisfied, an increasing quantity and variety of opportunities must be provided for exploring and appreciating the province's historical heritage.

Historical resources cover a wide spectrum. They range from documents and manuscripts, to people's remembrances, to artifacts and furnishings, to commemorative plaques, to buildings, to landscapes and water routes. Each resource can most suitably be protected, managed, and interpreted through particular means. The most suitable approach can range from an article or book, to a film or television programme, to a museum display, to an authentically restored building open to the public, to a Historical Park. All of these approaches require, first, protection of the resource, and, second, formulation of a positive management policy in order to best protect the resource and interpret it to the public. The Historical Park is one approach to the protection and presentation of historical resources.

Historical Parks protect and interpret historical resources at sites where the associated significant events actually happened. A historic site consists of all the evidences of human impact upon the landscape: buildings, artifacts, the clearings which remain from a long abandoned farm, the stumps of white pines cut long ago, the disturbed soil of an Indian encampment now below the ground. The story of a site, assembled from the remaining physical evidence of man's activity, arises from a complex series of relationships among all the phenomena of the site. These relationships tell the story. In a Historical Park, material evidence of past activity has been removed or disturbed as little as possible. The evidence which remains in its original setting conveys the moods and tells the stories of landscape-related phenomena such as Indian mound building on the Rainy River, or the commercial fishery on Lake Erie, in a way that no museum or history book can.

The historical resources protected in Historical Parks can be of considerable scientific value. They provide, of course, opportunities for archaeological and historical research into the people and events associated with the sites protected. They also provide examples of human impact on the landscape of considerable value to research in ecology and resource management. Archaeological sites in particular can tell us about the effects of human activity on the natural world and about the natural forces that affect human life over long periods of time. Archaeological remains are of great value for research into long-run changes in climate, human exploitation of vegetation and wildlife, nutrition, disease, etc. In short, Historical

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART I

A HISTORICAL PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

1. Historical Background

Ontario's earliest interest in the preservation of landscape-related historical resources was shown in the designation of areas associated with the Loyalists and the War of 1812 in the Niagara Peninsula. In 1824 a small park was designated on the battlefield of Queenston Heights and a monument erected there to General Sir Isaac Brock. At the close of the 19th century, the Niagara Parks Commission (established 1887) became involved in historical resources. It took over Queenston Heights (1895), and later acquired Butler's Burial Ground (1907), Old Fort Erie (1908), and the Drummond Hill cemetery at Lundy's Lane (1910, 1912). This movement, however, was more concerned with preservation and commemoration than with recreation.

The development of Ontario's historical resources in the form of parks or related outdoor attractions began to place a greater emphasis on recreation during the 1930s. These developments were essentially restorations, reconstructions, and representations of historic structures associated with relatively significant open space. Fort George (1937-1940) at Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Fort Henry (1938) at Kingston, were the first such ventures.

It was during the 1950s and 1960s, however, that historical resource development for recreation really got underway. This era witnessed a "boom" in pioneer village construction and other similar developments. Upper Canada Village at Morrisburg, Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto, and Sainte-Marie among the Hurons at Midland are some of the better known examples. The most recent historical resource development of this general nature is Old Fort William (1973) at Thunder Bay.

Previous to 1972, the Department of Lands and Forests operated a number of parks containing significant historical resources, such as Algonquin, Inverhuron, and Serpent Mounds. Historical themes were central to interpretive programmes in parks such as Sibbald Point, Wasaga Beach, and Turkey Point. Historical and archaeological resource inventories were initiated as part of park planning, and significant landscape-related historical resources such as Peterborough Petroglyphs, Michipicoten Post, and Manitou Mounds were investigated for their park potential.

The importance of landscape-related historical resources in the Provincial Parks system was recognized in the Provincial Parks classification scheme of 1967, which provided for Historical Zones. While there are now many such zones in Provincial Parks, there are currently no Historical Parks in the parks system. This new classification scheme for the first time provides for a Historical class of parks. It is proposed to redesignate Petroglyphs Park, now a Natural Environment Park, as the first Historical Park.

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART I

A HISTORICAL PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

Parks are unique outdoor laboratories for investigation of historic human interaction with the natural environment.

Historical Parks provide opportunities for education in human prehistory and history in an outdoor setting for students of all ages. They are a necessary complement to classroom education, laboratory and archival research, and individual reading programmes.

Historical Parks can broaden and enrich the historical experience by making it a recreational experience. A park is a place where one can enjoy activities which are part of the historical story, such as camping in a Huron longhouse, canoeing down a fur trade waterway, or hiking along a colonization road. Historical Parks can provide a meaningful experience to a wide range of people who never partake of other approaches to historical resource protection.

It is not enough to assert the value of our past. Change makes our landscape-related historical resources more valuable, and at the same time increasingly endangers these resources. Pressures for development and alteration of the Ontario landscape are such that no outdoor historical resource can be considered reasonably safe without a positive programme of protection and management.

Without a systematic and substantial protection programme involving all responsible agencies, historical sites of aesthetic, interpretive, educational, and scientific value will continue to be irreparably altered or eradicated at an ever increasing rate, often inadvertently and simply because of lack of knowledge. We still have in Ontario a historical resource base upon which could be developed a representative system of Historical Parks, including a significant number of sites readily accessible to Ontarians and visitors to the province. Ontario needs such a system of Historical Parks.

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART I

A HISTORICAL PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

3. A Policy for Historical Parks

Historical Parks are areas selected to represent the distinctive historical resources of the Province in an open space setting, and are protected for interpretive, educational, and research purposes.

Historical Parks protect and perpetuate in their original outdoor setting distinctive historical resources representative of Ontario's cultural heritage. Historical Parks range from those which protect extremely fragile resources principally for research purposes, to those which provide opportunities for recreation and participation in a quality heritage environment for large numbers of people.

Nowhere can the successes and failures of our ancestors more vividly come to life than on the lands and waters where they struggled to survive and where the marks of this struggle are still evident today. Though living is easier and inter-relationship with the land less direct than ever before, Historical Parks will always enhance the ability of Ontario's people to understand and enjoy the present and the future which they continually build on the foundation of the past.

The Historical class of parks contributes to the achievement of the following objectives of the Provincial Parks system by:

<u>Protection</u>	<u>Protecting a system of provincially</u>
<u>Objective:</u>	<u>significant special and representative</u>
	<u>prehistorical and historical resources.</u>

Historical Parks will protect a wide range of landscape-related historical resources associated with sufficient open space to permit the development of a park in an outdoor recreational context. The system for representation is defined in Part II of this document.

<u>Heritage</u>	(a) <u>Providing opportunities for unstructured</u>
<u>Appreciation</u>	<u>individual exploration and appreciation</u>
<u>Objective:</u>	<u>of the outdoor cultural heritage of Ontario.</u>

Individual exploration and appreciation will be encouraged compatible with and complementary to protection of historical resources.

(b) <u>Providing opportunities for exploration</u>
<u>and appreciation of cultural environments</u>
<u>through interpretation and education based</u>
<u>upon the character and significance of</u>
<u>Historical Parks.</u>

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART I

A HISTORICAL PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

Historical Parks will provide interpretive and educational opportunities for a wide range of individuals and groups to participate in activities and lifeways rooted in the landscape and physical environment, and basic to past human development in the Province. Restoration and reconstruction of historical resources will be limited in scale and directed primarily to resource protection and maintenance.

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART II

SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

1. Representation

Historical Parks will represent a diverse range of landscape-related historical resources in Ontario. In establishing Historical Parks, the target is to represent each of the theme segments of the Province's human history. This representation will be achieved through Historical Parks and through Historical and Wilderness Zones in parks of other classes, and through significant landscape-related historical resources protected by other public agencies and public interest groups.

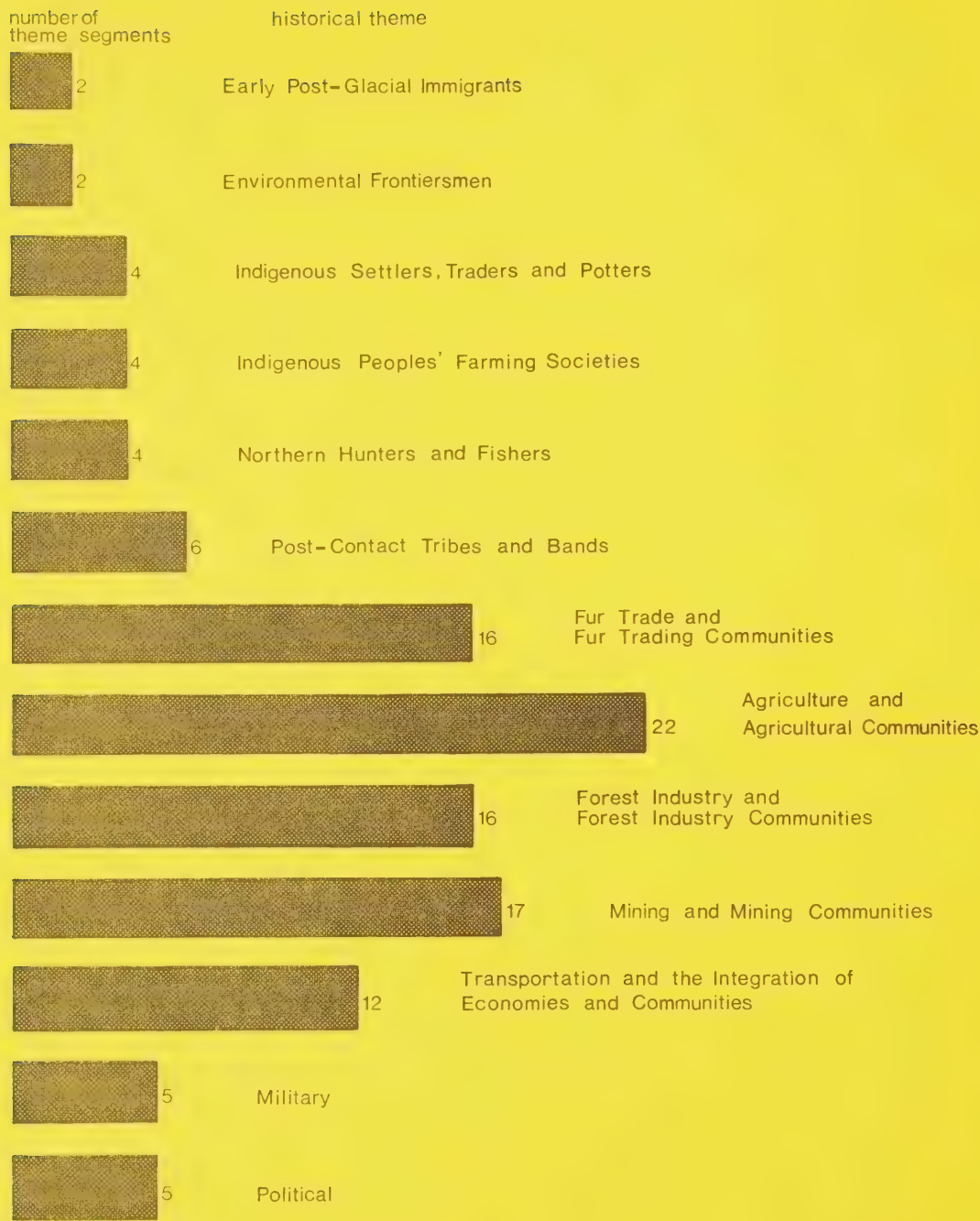
Within Ontario's human history, 13 themes have been defined, each based upon a common activity or procedure, involving a substantial portion of the contemporary population, within a defined time span and geographical area. These themes are not intended to encompass all aspects of Ontario's history. They concentrate on those which can best be represented in their original, outdoor, non-urban setting. The 13 themes are illustrated in Figure 1. These themes have been further broken down into theme segments on the basis of time and place. Thus each historical theme segment represents an important phase of a distinctive activity which took place in a specific time and place within Ontario. Clearly defined criteria have been used to evaluate each segment's level of provincial historical significance within its respective theme. There are 115 theme segments, as illustrated in Figure 1. The number of theme segments may change on the basis of new archaeological and historical research and analysis.

NOTE: As of the time of compilation (June 1978), major revisions to the framework of historical themes and theme segments were in progress. When completed, the revised framework should more truly delineate historical themes and theme segments appropriate to the context of the Provincial Parks system.

Representative historical resources no longer exist for certain theme segments. Some theme segments may require more than one park or zone for adequate representation, while in other cases more than one theme segment may be represented by a single park or zone. The sizes of Historical Parks will vary substantially according to the nature and integrity of the historical resources to be preserved.

The geographical distribution of theme segments will ensure that Historical Parks will be distributed throughout Ontario.

FIGURE 1
THEMES AND THEME SEGMENTS
OF ONTARIO HISTORY



HISTORICAL PARKS
PART II
SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

2. Evaluation

Potential Historical Parks will be evaluated for their suitability for Historical Park designation and consequent ability to contribute to the achievement of parks system objectives. An evaluation scheme has been designed for this purpose. The evaluation scheme has seven units which deal with fundamental aspects of any potential Historical Park. Each unit consists of one or more variables. The individual units and variables follow.

Variables

<u>Unit I:</u>	<u>Accessibility</u>
<u>Variables:</u>	Primary access route. Secondary access route. Distance from major centres.
<u>Unit II:</u>	<u>Land Base Capability</u>
<u>Variables:</u>	Space needed to accommodate historical resource. Capacity to sustain on-site interpretation. Space needed to accommodate buffer zone. Space needed to accommodate support facilities.
<u>Unit III:</u>	<u>Historical Significance</u>
<u>Variable:</u>	Historical Significance.
<u>Unit IV:</u>	<u>Historical Features</u>
<u>Section I:</u>	<u>Archaeological Sites</u>
<u>Variables:</u>	Present condition. Control of archaeological investigations. Endangerment.
<u>Section II:</u>	<u>Historical Buildings.</u>
<u>Variables:</u>	Present condition. Endangerment.
<u>Section III:</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Features</u>
<u>Variables:</u>	Present condition. Endangerment.
<u>Unit V:</u>	<u>Historical Representation</u>
<u>Variable:</u>	Presence of representative historical features.
<u>Unit VI:</u>	<u>Recreational Activities</u>
<u>Variables:</u>	Capacity to sustain appropriate recreational activities. Capacity of appropriate recreational activities to complement historical resource.
<u>Unit VII:</u>	<u>Scenic Value</u>
<u>Variables:</u>	Presence of special interest features of scenic value. Presence of scenic constraints detracting from scenic value.

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART II

SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

Prospective areas will be evaluated for their natural significance and for the presence of any special and representative earth and life science features.

Economic activities and potentials associated with alternative land and resource uses will be considered and thoroughly evaluated.

HISTORICAL PARKS
PART III
MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

A Master Plan will be prepared for each Historical Park. Each Master Plan will establish detailed policy guidelines for the Park's long term protection, development, and management. Each Master Plan will be prepared in accordance with Master Planning and Public Participation Guidelines, issued by Provincial Parks Branch.

1. Zoning

Lands and waters within each Historical Park will be zoned so that they may be allocated to their most appropriate use relative to the Park. Historical Parks always include Historical Zones, and may also include Development, Access, Natural Environment, and Nature Reserve Zones. Figure 2 illustrates a hypothetical example of zoning in Historical Parks.

Historical Zones include the significant historical resources of the Park in which there is minimum development required to support visitor exploration and appreciation and scientific research.

Development Zones provide access where appropriate for large numbers to the Park, and facilities and services for day-use and camping activities. They will constitute a relatively small portion of individual Parks.

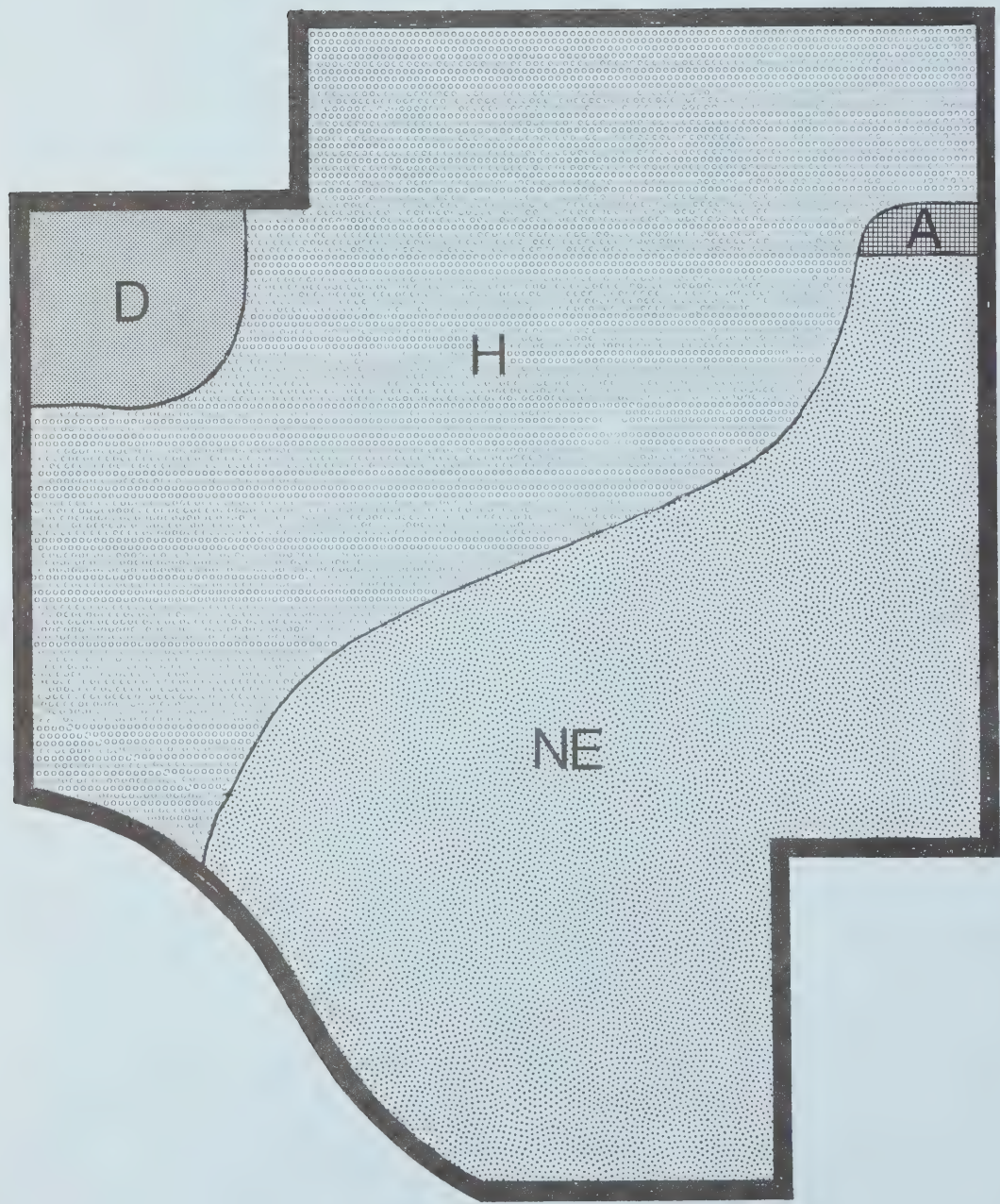
Access Zones serve as staging areas where minimum facilities support use of less developed Historical and Natural Environment Zones.

Natural Environment Zones include aesthetic landscapes, primarily where these provide an appropriate adjacent setting for Historical Zones, in which there is minimum development required to support low-intensity recreational activities.

Nature Reserve Zones include any significant earth and life science features which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones.

FIGURE 2

HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE OF ZONING
IN HISTORICAL PARKS



HISTORICAL PARKS

PART III MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

2. Land and Water Uses

All alienated lands and waters within the boundaries of Historical Parks will be acquired. All physical improvements on acquired lands will be removed, unless they are in a location and of such design as to be of value for park management or visitor services, or unless they are significant to the Park's history or complementary to its cultural landscape. Lands will not be leased for the private use of individuals or corporations.

In any Historical Park, non-conforming land and water, resource, or recreational uses may exist at the time of its designation. Such uses will be identified as non-conforming uses in the Master Plan for the Park. No further expansion of these uses will be permitted. Provided that they are not demonstrably incompatible with the Park and the zone within which they are situated, such uses will be permitted to continue until the lands are acquired, the uses disappear through normal processes, or equal opportunities for such uses are provided elsewhere.

The master planning and development and management policies set out in this document are without prejudice to, and may be superseded by, any settlements of claims made between the Ontario Government and Indian bands in Ontario.

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

1. Development

The location, design, and materials of all facilities constructed within Historical Parks will, to the maximum extent possible, reflect the environmental character of individual Parks. All development will be carried out in accordance with approved site plans and development plans.

Historical Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, interpretive, educational, research, and management facilities, means of conveyance appropriate to the historical resource, and historical restorations or reconstructions where appropriate. Restorations and reconstructions are complex undertakings requiring the employment of a wide range of professional expertise. They will conform to high standards of historical authenticity and will be complementary to and will not interfere with the integrity of the historical resource.

Development Zones: Development may include roads, visitor control structures, day-use facilities, car campgrounds, basic commercial service facilities for visitors, and orientation, interpretive, educational, research and management facilities. Day use and camping facilities will be developed to standards which will encourage natural environment based activities and provide for uncrowded conditions and relative freedom from the intrusions of fellow recreationists.

Access Zones: Development will be limited to roads, visitor control structures, basic day-use facilities, group car campgrounds where appropriate, and orientation, interpretive, educational, research and management facilities. Any group car campgrounds will be developed to a basic standard and normally will be for the use of educational and scientific groups only.

Natural Environment Zones: Development will be limited to back-country campsites, portages, trails, necessary signs for route identification, minimal interpretive facilities, and similar simple facilities which will support low-intensity recreational activities.

Nature Reserve Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, minimal interpretive facilities, and temporary facilities for research and management.

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

2. Environmental Management

(a) Historical Values

The historical values of individual Historical Zones require management policies which will be defined through, and will be a key part of, the Master Plan for each Park. Management strategies for individual historical resources may range from allowing cultural landscapes and features to evolve without human interference, to managing cultural landscapes and features so as to stabilize their present condition, to restoring and reconstructing cultural landscapes and features to more closely approach their condition in the past time period of concern. All management of historical features and associated landscapes will conform to high standards of historical authenticity and will be complementary to and will not interfere with the integrity of the historical resource.

(b) Lands and Waters

The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry out mining operations in Historical Zones which present authentic activities associated with historical mining industry resources. Otherwise, commercial mineral exploration and extraction will not be permitted.

No new utility lines or rights of way may be developed except for those required for servicing the Park.

Park user solid waste and sewage will be disposed outside the Park through local facilities wherever possible. Where there is no practical alternative, landfill sites, incinerators, and sewage lagoons may be located in Development Zones only.

Waters in Historical, Natural Environment, and Nature Reserve Zones will not be controlled except to present authentic activities associated with historical resources, protect historical resources, or perpetuate natural features and conditions where desirable. Waters in Development and Access zones may be controlled to a limited extent to enhance recreational opportunities where this does not conflict with the historical values for which the Park has been established. Otherwise, no new water control structures may be built; and existing structures will be removed or allowed to deteriorate, unless they are essential for water control outside the Park, or their removal would result in an environmental impact more adverse than their retention.

(c) Flora

Commercial forest operations will not be permitted. The

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Ministry of Natural Resources may carry out forest operations in Historical Zones which present authentic activities associated with historical forest industry resources. Where trees are removed for development or management purposes in Historical, Development, Natural Environment, or Access Zones, they may be marketed if economic.

The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry on agricultural operations in Historical Zones which present authentic activities associated with historical agricultural resources. Otherwise, agricultural practices will not be permitted, except in Nature Reserve Zones for the perpetuation of natural features and conditions where desirable.

Non-native plant species will not be deliberately introduced, except for historically authentic species in Historical Zones where these will not have a detrimental impact on native plant communities elsewhere in the Park. Where non-native plant species are already established in Historical or Nature Reserve Zones and threaten the values for which those zones have been established, a management programme for their eradication may be developed. Missing native species may be re-established if biologically feasible and acceptable and if compatible with the historical values for which the Park has been established. Fertilizers may not be used except in Development and Access Zones.

Natural fires in Nature Reserve Zones normally will be allowed to burn undisturbed unless they threaten human life, other zones, lands outside the Park, or the values for which the Nature Reserve Zones have been established. Prescribed burning may be carried out in Nature Reserve Zones to simulate natural fire when desirable. All other fires will be suppressed. Fire suppression techniques used will have as minimal effect as possible on the Park's environment. Such means of suppression as bulldozing, and water bombing with chemical additives, will not be permitted except in critical situations.

Native forest and vegetative insects and diseases in Nature Reserve Zones normally will be allowed to develop undisturbed. Native insects and diseases threatening the values for which Historical or Nature Reserve Zones have been established, or the aesthetic values of Development Zones, or values outside the Park, will be controlled where feasible. Insects and diseases not native to a Park's forest region will be controlled where feasible. Where control is desirable, it will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease so as to have minimal effects on other components of the Park's environment. Biological control will be used wherever feasible.

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

(d) Fauna

Non-native animal species will not be introduced, except for historically authentic species in Historical Zones where these will not have a detrimental impact on the environment of other zones in the Park, and where the movement of the species can be restricted within the Park. Where non-native species are already established, a management programme for their eradication may be developed, if they conflict with the values for which Historical and Nature Reserve Zones have been established. Missing native species may be reintroduced, and existing populations replenished, if biologically feasible and acceptable and if compatible with the historical values for which the Park has been established.

Animal populations may be controlled when essential to human health and safety, the health of the species outside the Park, or the values for which the Park has been established. Where control is desirable, techniques will be used having minimal effects on other components of the Park's environment. Any hunting or trapping required in control will be carried out under the strict supervision of, or directly by, the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Low-intensity sport fishing will be encouraged where it does not conflict with the values for which the Park has been established. Fishing will not be permitted in Nature Reserve Zones. Native fish species may be stocked for put and delayed take sport fishing in Natural Environment and Development Zones. Fish stocking programmes in individual Parks must avoid action which would affect endemic fish populations protected in Nature Reserve Zones. The use and possession of bait fish will be prohibited. Certain water bodies may be closed to fishing temporarily or permanently for fisheries research or management purposes.

Commercial fishing, including commercial bait fishing, may be permitted only on major water bodies not entirely enclosed within Historical Parks where compatible with the Park's historical values and resources.

Low-intensity sport hunting may be permitted only in Natural Environment Zones where public participation during master planning clearly demonstrates a need for hunting opportunities in the Zone; where there are no alternative hunting opportunities in the local area of equivalent accessibility, quality, and significance; where the Zone initially has the resource base to provide a quality hunting experience without habitat management; and where hunting can be effectively separated in time and space from other recreational activities in the Zone. Habitats will not be managed to facilitate wildlife viewing or hunting. Areas open to hunting may be closed to hunting temporarily or permanently for wildlife research or management purposes.

Existing commercial trapping rights will be phased out in a manner least harmful to the economic wellbeing of existing trappers indigenous to the area. No new trappers or traplines will be permitted. Commercial trapping will not be permitted in Nature Reserve Zones.

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

3. Recreation Management

A Management/Operating Plan will be prepared for each Historical Park, in accordance with Park Management/Operating Plan guidelines issued by Provincial Parks Branch. Each such Plan will establish detailed guidelines and procedures for the management and operation of Park activities and facilities.

Where such activities are compatible with and complementary to the values for which Historical Parks have been established, day-use, facility-based camping, and back-country camping activities both related and not related to the historical resources of individual Parks will be encouraged. Recreational activities related to historical resources may include activities such as canoeing on an historic river, exploring for archaeological sites, examining mineral samples from an historic mine, or making pottery using prehistoric techniques, as well as passive appreciation of historical values. Recreational activities not related to historical resources will be based upon natural landscape values and, except in Development Zones where they may be of moderate intensity, will be low-intensity in nature. Recreational activities and facilities encouraged in each zone are set out in Figure 3.

Motorized land vehicles and watercraft of any kind will not be permitted except for access purposes in Development and Access Zones, with the following exceptions. The Ministry of Natural Resources may where desirable, except in Nature Reserve Zones, operate means of public conveyance authentic to Historical Zones (for example, an alligator boat). Snowmobiles may be permitted on designated trails in Development, Access, and Natural Environment Zones where compatible with environmental values and other recreational uses and when alternative snowmobiling opportunities in the local area are limited. The use of motorized transportation by the Ministry of Natural Resources for purposes other than historically authentic public conveyance will conform to these standards wherever possible.

Limits on the size of parties, and on the number of parties permitted to use designated areas at any one time, may be established in order to protect the values for which Historical Parks have been established. Back-country camping may be limited to designated sites. Any activities may be restricted or prohibited in Historical or Nature Reserve Zones where necessary to maintain the values for which these zones have been established.

Back-country campers travelling in Historical, Natural Environment, and Nature Reserve Zones will be required to pack out all non-burnable garbage. The use of non-burnable, disposable food and beverage containers in those zones may be prohibited. Management systems will be established for garbage cleanup and general maintenance of back-country campsites, portages, and trails in Historical, Natural Environment, and Nature Reserve Zones.

FIGURE 3
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES ENCOURAGED IN
HISTORICAL PARKS

This figure shows activities and facilities encouraged in Historical Parks, by zone. It should be noted that zones are subordinate to the Park class. Therefore activities encouraged or not permitted in an Access Zone, for example, in one class of park will not necessarily be the same as those in an Access Zone in another class.

The left hand column includes both activities and facilities. Facilities have been used where the accompanying activity is totally dependent on specially designed facilities (e.g., golfing requires a golf course, pool swimming requires a swimming pool). Activities have been used where facilities are not essential to the pursuit of the activity. Most of these activities may be pursued with or without facilities. Where both options are a realistic possibility, the activity is preceded by an asterisk, and two symbols are given. The first symbol refers to the activity without supporting facilities; the second, to the activity with facilities. For those activities not preceded by an asterisk, special facilities are not normally required (e.g., orienteering, historical appreciation) or are at a minimal level and are covered elsewhere (e.g., canoeing). In all cases, the development of any facilities will be at a level appropriate to the zone in question and subject to the general development policies for each zone. This list of activities and facilities is not, however, intended to be exhaustive.

Symbols

- Y - Normally encouraged in this zone.
- M - May be encouraged in this zone in certain parks of this class where appropriate.
- Blank - Not compatible with this zone; if now exists, a non-conforming use which will be phased out.
- a - If authentic to the Historical Zone.

Zones

Activities and Facilities

- Arboretums
- Archery facilities (temporary)
- *Angling
- *Boating (ice)
- * (powered)

D	A	W	NR	H	NE
M/M M/M	M/M M/		M/	M/M ^a M/	Y/ M/

Figure 3 cont'd

	D	A	W	NR	H	NE
Campgrounds (car)	M					
(boat-in or walk-in)	M	M				
(group, day)	M					
(group, overnight)	M	M				
(back-country campsites)						M
Canoeing	Y	Y		M	M	Y
* Cycling	Y/M	Y/M			M/ M ^a	M/M
Demonstration areas (demonstration farms, logging exhibits, etc.)						
Dog trials						
Golf courses						
* Hiking	Y/M	Y/M		M/M	M/M	Y/Y
Historical appreciation	Y	Y		M	M	Y
* Horseback trail riding	M/M	M/M			M ^a /M ^a	M/M
* Hunting						M/
* Ice skating	Y/M	Y/		M/	M/M ^a	Y/
Kite flying	Y	Y		M		Y
* Model aircraft flying						
* Model boat operation						
Nature appreciation	Y	Y		M	M	Y
Orienteering	Y	Y		M	M	Y
Outfitting services						
Painting	Y	Y		M	M	Y
Parkways for pleasure driving	M					
Performing arts	M ^a				M ^a	
Photography	Y	Y		M	M	Y
Picnic grounds	Y	M			M	
Playing fields, open space	M					
Playgrounds	M					
Recreation programmes (organized)	M				M ^a	
Religious programmes (organized)	M ^a				M ^a	
Resorts	M				M ^a	
Restaurants and food services	Y				M ^a	
Roller skating rinks						
* Sailing	M/M	M/		M/	M/	M/
Shooting facilities (temporary)						
* Scuba and skin diving	M/M	M/		M/	M/	M/
* Skiing (cross country)	Y/M	Y/M		M/	M/	Y/M
* (downhill)						
* Sledding	Y/	Y/		M/	M/	Y/
* Snowmobiling	M/M	M/M				M/M
Snowshoeing	Y	Y		M	M	Y
* Swimming	Y/Y	Y/M		M/	M/M ^a	Y/
Swimming pools and lakes (artificial)					M ^a	
Tennis courts						
* Trail biking						

HISTORICAL PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

4. Visitor Services

(a) Information

A high quality public information service, using print, audiovisual and display media, organized programmes, and personal contact, will be essential for each Historical Park with substantial development. The term "Historical Park" will be incorporated into the name of the Park for public identification purposes wherever possible. All brochures, maps, Park signs, etc. will indicate this designation; for example, Petroglyphs Provincial Historical Park.

(b) Interpretation

Interpretive programmes and facilities will provide visitors with opportunities to learn and experience the character and significance of individual Historical Parks. Priority will be given to programmes and facilities which will assist visitors in exploring and appreciating themes of provincial historical significance. Programmes and facilities will be aimed at promoting an awareness and appreciation of a heritage conservation ethic and providing enjoyable learning experiences through participation in historic activities associated with individual Parks. Interpretation is the prime means for achieving the heritage appreciation objective in Historical Parks. Programmes must be carefully planned and managed so that visitors receive the highest quality experiences appropriate to individual Parks. Restorations and reconstructions, where desirable, will be central to Park interpretive programmes as they are interpretive media in themselves. Printed material, low-key self-use facilities, informal personal contact, and in Development Zones, organized programmes and large-scale facilities, will be the other primary means of interpretation.

(c) Recreation Programmes

Recreation programmes will not take place in Historical Parks. However, many interpretive programmes will encourage recreational participation in and enjoyment of historic activities associated with individual Parks.

(d) Outdoor Education

Outdoor education use of less developed Historical Parks will be limited to groups with a specific interest in the historical resources of individual Parks. Group activities must be compatible with preservation needs in individual Parks. A greater priority will be given to outdoor education in Historical Parks with substantial development. Specialized information services will be provided to assist leaders of interested organized school groups.

HISTORICAL PARKS
PART IV
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

5. Scientific Research

Scientific research by qualified individuals, which contributes to the knowledge of natural and cultural history, and to environmental and recreational management of historical resources, will be encouraged in Historical Parks.

All research programmes will require the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and must also meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation. The Ministry may approve the removal of faunal and floral specimens, soil and geological samples, and archaeological and historical artifacts by qualified researchers. All such materials removed remain the property of the Ministry. Approved research activities and facilities will be compatible with protection values and recreational uses in individual Parks, and will be subject to development and management policies for Historical Parks unless special permission is given. Sites altered by research activities will be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible.

HISTORICAL PARKS
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ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS
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NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Provincial Parks system is:

To provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural, and recreational environments, in a system of Provincial Parks.

The objectives of the Provincial Parks system are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Protection
Objective | <i>To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.</i> |
| 2. Recreation
Objective | <i>To provide Provincial Park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.</i> |
| 3. Heritage
Appreciation
Objective | <i>To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.</i> |
| 4. Tourism
Objective | <i>To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.</i> |

The six classes of Provincial Parks together achieve these objectives. *Natural Environment Parks incorporate outstanding recreational landscapes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences. Natural Environment Parks contribute to the achievement of all four objectives.*

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART I

A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

1. Historical Background

Natural environments which incorporate natural, cultural, and recreational features have formed a key element of the Provincial Parks system since its very beginning. Many of the oldest Provincial Parks are today Natural Environment Parks and are among the most outstanding in the parks system: Algonquin (1893), Rondeau (1894), Presqu'ile (1921), Sibley (1944), Lake Superior (1944). The history of preservation and recreation in Natural Environment Parks, and of the possibilities and problems which those parks have presented to the Ontario community, incorporates most of the elements of the history of preservation and recreation in Ontario. Natural Environment Parks are in themselves a significant part of Ontario's history.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART I

A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

2. The Need for Natural Environment Parks

Man needs wilderness areas; he needs protected natural and historical areas; he needs areas providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities. In the Provincial Parks system, Wilderness, Nature Reserve, Historical, and Recreation Parks each respond to certain of these needs. Of equal importance are special environments which incorporate in one place these natural, cultural, and recreational values.

Natural Environment Parks protect natural areas of particular richness and diversity. Yesterday, the abundance of these natural landscapes attracted Indian and European economic and social activity. Today, that abundance provides the basis for outstanding recreational opportunities in aesthetic natural settings.

Natural Environment Parks protect these outstanding natural areas in locations and conditions relatively amenable to substantial numbers of people. The earth science, life science, and historical features which may be found in Natural Environment Parks are among the most accessible such features in the parks system. The wilderness landscapes which a number of Natural Environment Parks incorporate are generally more accessible than are those in Wilderness Parks.

As accessible areas incorporating a wide range of natural, cultural, and recreational values, Natural Environment Parks offer unparalleled opportunities for individual appreciation and enjoyment of those values and the relationships among them, for a full range of interpretive and educational programmes, and for scientific research in an outdoor laboratory setting.

Outdoor activities contribute to the fitness and health of Ontario's residents. Natural Environment Parks play a particularly important role in the development of individual skills for use in natural landscapes.

Natural Environment Parks provide opportunities for personal reflection, social interchange, and small group activities. Particularly significant are experiences of solitude and personal integration with nature. Such experiences contribute to the individual's understanding of himself, of the land, and of its people.

Present and future participation in back-country recreational travel is discussed in Wilderness Parks. That discussion provides the projections set out in Figure 1. Both Natural Environment and Waterway Parks contribute to the supply of

FIGURE 1
PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN BACK-COUNTRY AND NON-WILDERNESS TRAVEL

('000's of User Days per Year)						
1976			1981		1991	
	Residents Only	Residents & Non-Residents	Residents Only	Residents & Non-Residents	Residents Only	Residents & Non-Residents
Projection I						
Total Back-Country Travel	1,300	1,600	1,400	1,800	1,600	2,000
Non-Wilderness Travel (70% assumption)	910	1,120	980	1,260	1,120	1,400
Projection II						
Total Back-Country Travel	1,300	1,600	2,200	2,700	2,600	3,200
Non-Wilderness Travel (70% assumption)	910	1,120	1,540	1,890	1,820	2,240

Note: These projections cannot be translated directly into area requirements.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART I

A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

opportunities for "non-wilderness" back-country camping. It is estimated that in 1975 approximately 550,000 user days of back-country camping occurred in Provincial Parks. About two-thirds of this took place in Natural Environment Parks.

Natural Environment Parks also make a major contribution to the supply of Provincial Park day-use and facility-based camping opportunities. The need for these opportunities is discussed in Recreation Parks.

In short, Natural Environment Parks represent the essence of the Provincial Park idea. Central to the Provincial Parks system, they incorporate all the values for which that system stands.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART I

A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

3. A Policy for Natural Environment Parks

Natural Environment Parks incorporate outstanding recreational landscapes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.

Natural Environment Parks are units of land and water of particular recreational, historical, and natural interest. They are attractive and diverse landscapes. While these parks may include developed recreation areas, their rich and varied environments are the main reasons for their establishment. Recreation based on interaction with the natural environment, and appreciation of natural and cultural values, is dominant. Activities may range from back-country travel and camping in the largely natural interior of these parks, to car camping and day-use activities in more developed areas. Natural Environment Parks provide a great many Ontarians with as profound contact with the grandeur and solitude of undeveloped Ontario as they will ever attain.

The Natural Environment class of parks contributes to the achievement of the following objectives of the Provincial Parks system by:

<u>Protection</u> <u>Objective:</u>	<u>Protecting a system of provincially significant natural environments incorporating natural, cultural, and recreational features.</u>
--	---

Natural Environment Parks will protect a range of representative natural landscapes. These landscapes will be those which incorporate the greatest possible diversity of provincially significant earth and life science features, provincially significant landscape-related prehistorical and historical resources, and outstanding opportunities for high quality, low-intensity recreation. The system for representation is defined in Part II of this document.

<u>Recreation</u> <u>Objective:</u>	a) <u>Providing day-use opportunities in areas of outstanding recreational potential associated with natural environments.</u>
	b) <u>Providing facility-based camping opportunities in natural environments and in associated areas of outstanding recreational potential.</u>

Natural Environment Parks will emphasize natural environment based experiences which provide individuals, families, and small groups with a low intensity of contact with fellow recreationists.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART I

A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

- c) Providing natural environment back-country travel and camping opportunities.

The recreational experience will be characterized by solitude, challenge, and personal integration with nature derived from relatively unmanipulated landscapes.

- Heritage
Appreciation
Objective: a) Providing opportunities for unstructured individual exploration and appreciation of the natural environment heritage of Ontario.

Individual exploration and appreciation will be encouraged to the greatest extent compatible with and complementary to protection of natural environments, earth and life science features, and historical resources.

- b) Providing opportunities for exploration and appreciation of natural and cultural environments through interpretation and education based upon the character and significance of Natural Environment Parks.

Natural Environment Parks will provide a full range of interpretive and educational programmes which reflect the diversity of features and resources in these parks and are directed to the widest possible variety of user groups.

- Tourism
Objective: Providing Ontario residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience distinctive regions of the Province.

Natural Environment Parks will provide day use and camping opportunities for passing travellers as well as destination camping opportunities for those attracted from considerable distances.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS
PART II
SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

1. Representation

Natural Environment Parks will represent a diverse range of natural environment landscapes in Ontario. In establishing Natural Environment Parks, the target is to represent each of the site districts of the Province. This will require one representative Natural Environment Park in each site district. Appropriate National Parks will contribute to natural environment representation.

Ontario is divided into 13 site regions on the basis of biological productivity criteria. Each site region is an area of relatively uniform effective climate and is therefore an area of particular biological productivity characteristics. In each site region, soil, climate, and living organisms interact in a particular way. These site regions are further subdivided into 65 site districts on the basis of landform. Thus each site district delimits a distinctive combination of physiographic and biotic conditions. The 65 site districts are illustrated in Figures 2 and 3.

In keeping with the philosophy and objectives of Natural Environment Parks, parks representative of their site district should be not less than 2,000 ha (4,900 acres) in size. This is a minimum standard to protect representative landscapes and provide scope for low-intensity recreation activities.

In certain southern Ontario site districts, this size standard may be impossible to attain, or it may not be at all possible to establish such Natural Environment Parks due to the degree of existing development. Where possible, additional Natural Environment Parks may be established to respond to recreational needs in site districts within day or weekend use range of major population centres. These additional parks may be somewhat less than 2,000 ha in size. In site districts where Waterway Parks include suitable blocks of land in Natural Environment Zones, or where Wilderness Parks include representative natural environments, it may not be necessary to establish Natural Environment Parks.

FIGURE 2

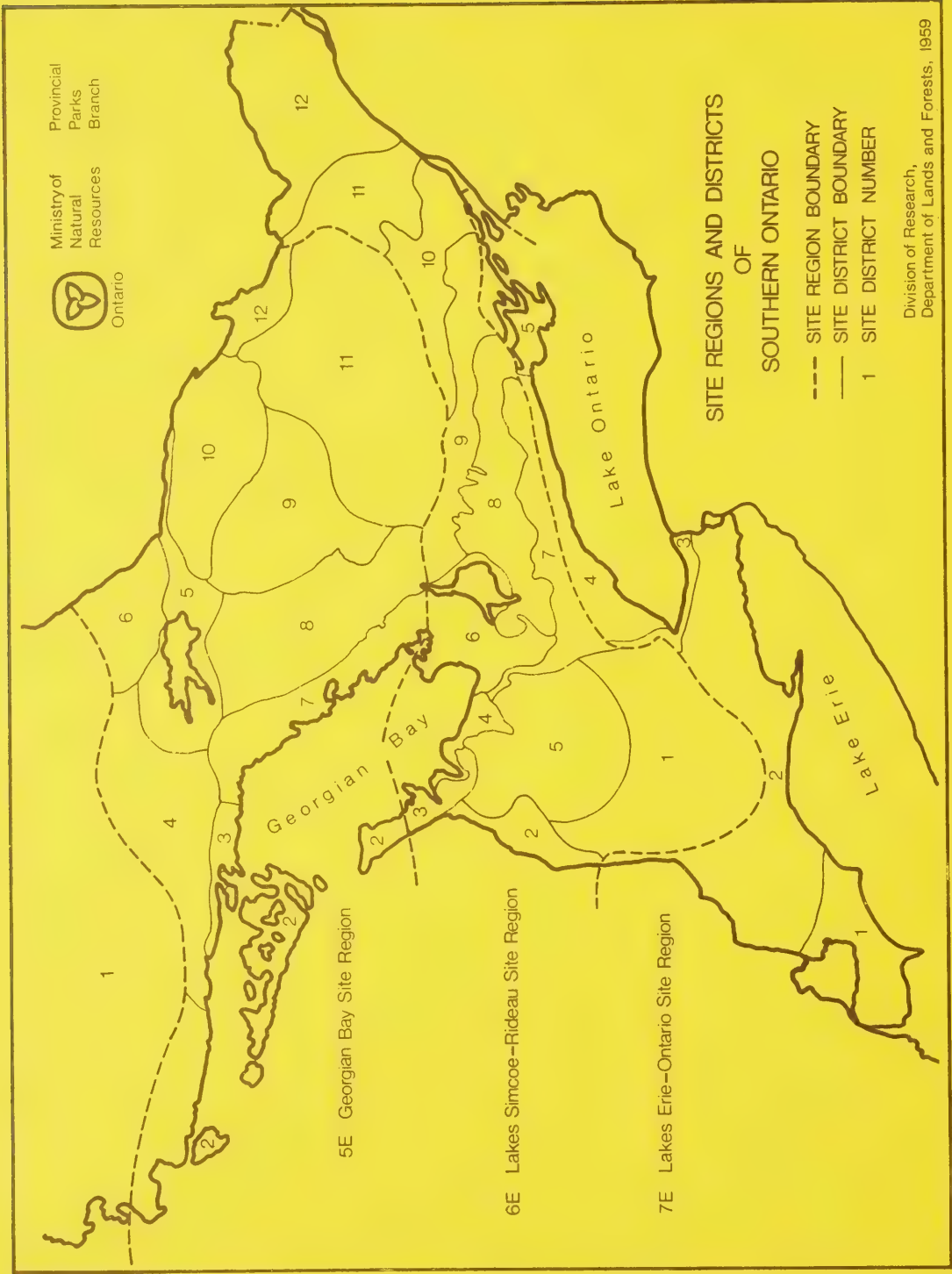
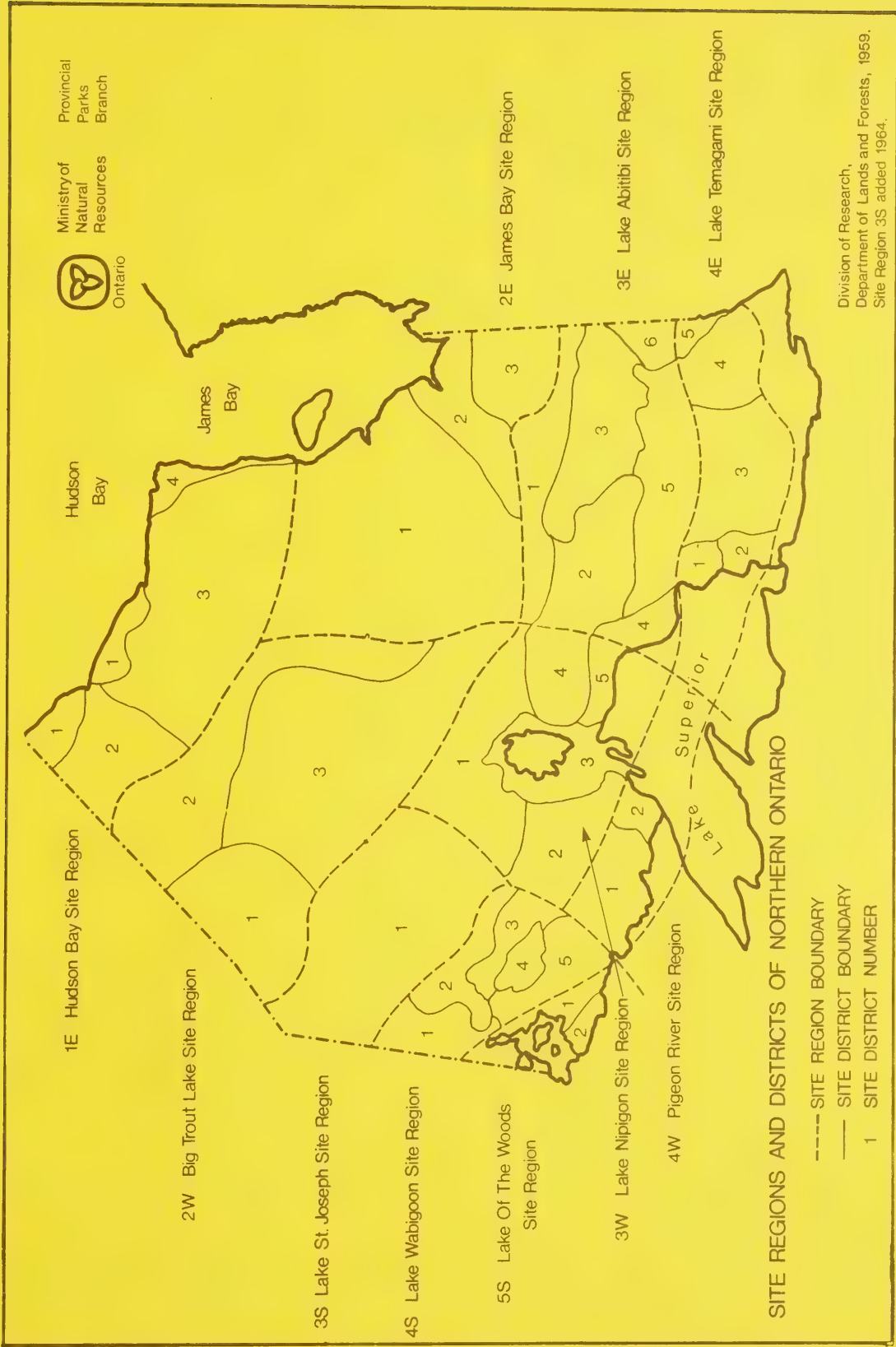


FIGURE 3



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS
PART II
SYSTEM PLANNING POLICIES

2. Evaluation

Potential Natural Environment Parks will be evaluated for their suitability for Natural Environment Park designation and consequent ability to contribute to the achievement of parks system objectives, through their incorporation of significant natural, cultural, and recreational values in representative natural environments.

Potential Natural Environment Parks will require evaluation of the quality of their natural landscapes and of the ability of those landscapes to represent the natural environments of their site districts.

Natural Environment Parks should contain the greatest possible diversity of special and representative earth and life science features. Prospective areas will require evaluation of the quality and integrity of their earth and life science features and of the ability of these features to represent the earth science history of the Province and the life science diversity of the site regions of the Province.

The physiographic and ecological integrity of prospective areas will be evaluated. Natural Environment Parks should be bounded by natural features such as topographic formations, waterways, etc., where appropriate to enhance ecological self-containment. Potential boundaries for parks including large-scale ecosystems should include adequate area to buffer the core ecosystems from intrusive influences.

Prospective areas will be evaluated for their historical significance. Areas should include the greatest possible diversity of special and representative landscape-related historical resources.

Prospective areas will also be evaluated on the basis of their ability to provide low-intensity recreational opportunities. The landscape should provide a variety of opportunities for non-mechanized recreation activities based on interaction with the natural environment and appreciation of natural and cultural values. Units capable of supporting more intensive activities such as day use and car camping are desirable complements.

Priority will be given to qualifying areas where Natural Environment Park potential is in danger of deterioration due to lack of protection.

Economic activities and potentials associated with alternative land and resource uses will be considered and thoroughly evaluated.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART II

SYSTEM PLANNING POLICIES

The meeting of significant deficiencies of supply in day or weekend use low-intensity, natural environment based recreational opportunities will be a prime consideration in the establishment of any Natural Environment Parks above and beyond those required to complete the basic system.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART III

MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

A Master Plan will be prepared for each Natural Environment Park. Each Master Plan will establish detailed policy guidelines for the Park's long term protection, development, and management. Each Master Plan will be prepared in accordance with Master Planning and Public Participation Guidelines, issued by Provincial Parks Branch.

1. Zoning

Lands and waters within each Natural Environment Park will be zoned so that they may be allocated to their most appropriate use relative to the Park. Natural Environment Parks always include Natural Environment and Development Zones, and may also include Wilderness, Nature Reserve, Historical, and Access Zones. Figure 4 illustrates a hypothetical example of zoning in Natural Environment Parks.

Natural Environment Zones include aesthetic landscapes in which there is minimum development required to support low-intensity recreational activities.

Development Zones provide the main access to the Park and facilities and services for a wide range of day-use and camping activities. They will constitute a relatively small portion of individual Parks.

Wilderness Zones include wilderness landscapes of appropriate size and integrity which protect significant natural and cultural features and are suitable for wilderness experiences.

Nature Reserve Zones include any significant earth and life science features which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones.

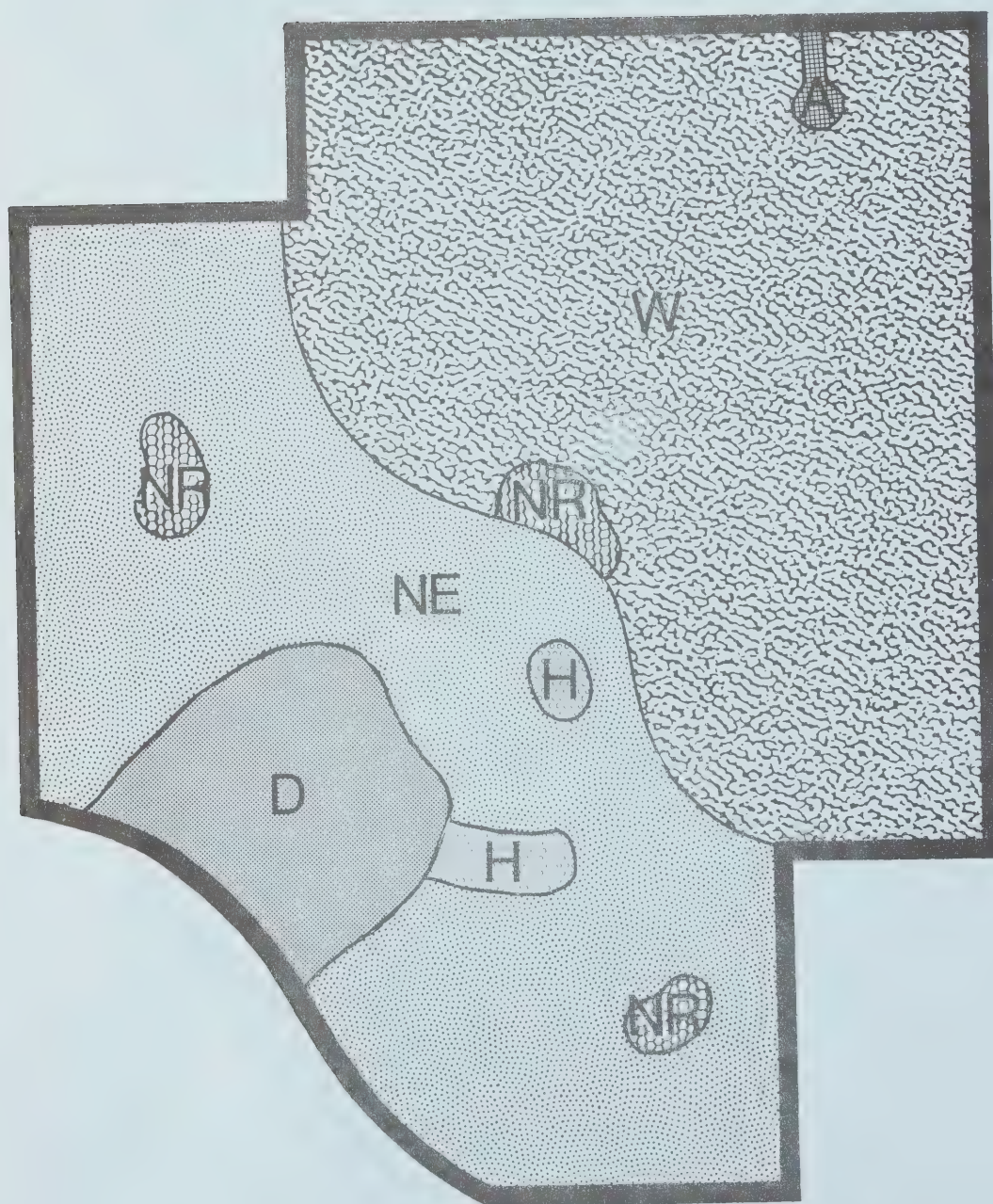
Historical Zones include any significant historical resources which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones.

Access Zones serve as staging areas where minimum facilities support use of Nature Reserve and Wilderness Zones, and less developed Natural Environment and Historical Zones.

Recreation-Utilization Zones include aesthetic landscapes in which there is minimum development required to support low-intensity recreational activities, and which also provide for commercial timber harvesting. To the greatest extent possible, they will be planned, developed, and managed in accordance with the policies set out for Natural Environment Zones. Recreation-Utilization zones have been established in Algonquin and Lake Superior Parks only, and will not be established in any other parks.

FIGURE 4

HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE OF ZONING
IN NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS
PART III
MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

2. Land and Water Uses

All alienated lands and waters within the boundaries of Natural Environment Parks will be acquired. All physical improvements on acquired lands will be removed, unless they are in a location and of such design as to be of value for park management or visitor services, or unless they are significant to the Park's history or complementary to its cultural landscape. Lands will not be leased for the private use of individuals or corporations.

In any Natural Environment Park, non-conforming land and water, resource, or recreational uses may exist at the time of its designation. Such uses will be identified as non-conforming uses in the Master Plan for the Park. No further expansion of these uses will be permitted. Provided that they are not demonstrably incompatible with the Park and the zone within which they are situated, such uses will be permitted to continue until the lands are acquired, the uses disappear through normal processes, or equal opportunities for such uses are provided elsewhere.

The master planning and development and management policies set out in this document are without prejudice to, and may be superseded by, any settlements of claims made between the Ontario Government and Indian bands in Ontario.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS
PART IV
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

1. Development

The location, design, and materials of all facilities constructed within Natural Environment Parks will, to the maximum extent possible, reflect the environmental character of individual Parks. All development will be carried out in accordance with approved site plans and development plans.

Natural Environment Zones: Development will be limited to back-country campsites, portages, trails, necessary signs for route identification, minimal interpretive facilities, and similar simple facilities which will support low-intensity recreational activities.

Development Zones: Development may include roads, visitor control structures, day-use facilities, car campgrounds, basic commercial service facilities for visitors including outfitting facilities for back-country users, and orientation, interpretive, educational, research, and management facilities. Day-use and camping facilities will be developed to standards which will encourage natural environment based activities and provide for uncrowded conditions and relative freedom from the intrusions of fellow recreationists.

Wilderness Zones: Development will be limited to wilderness campsites, portages, trails, and necessary signs for route identification. Wilderness campsites will be limited to facilities such as designated fireplaces and primitive privies.

Nature Reserve Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, minimal interpretive facilities, and temporary facilities for research and management. Portages and signs necessary to back-country travel in the Park will be permitted.

Historical Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, interpretive, educational, research, and management facilities, means of conveyance appropriate to the historical resource, and historical restorations or reconstructions where appropriate. Portages and signs necessary to back-country travel in the Park will be permitted. Restorations or reconstructions will conform to high standards of historical authenticity and will be complementary to and will not interfere with the integrity of the historical resource.

Access Zones: Development will be limited to roads, visitor control structures, basic day-use facilities, car campgrounds, basic commercial service facilities for visitors including outfitting services for back-country users, and orientation, interpretive, educational, research, and management facilities.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Car campgrounds will be developed to a basic standard. Where Access Zones provide access to Wilderness and less developed Natural Environment Zones, campgrounds may be restricted to interior users only, for one night both upon entering and leaving the Park.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry on agricultural operations in Historical Zones which present authentic activities associated with historical agricultural resources, or in Natural Environment, Development, Nature Reserve, and Access Zones for the perpetuation of natural features and conditions where desirable.

Non-native plant species will not be deliberately introduced, except for historically authentic species in Historical Zones where these will not have a detrimental impact on native plant communities elsewhere in the Park. Where non-native plant species are already established in Wilderness, Historical, or Nature Reserve Zones, and threaten the values for which those zones have been established, a management programme for their eradication may be developed. Missing native species may be re-established if biologically feasible and acceptable, usually to rehabilitate the quality of areas suffering past or present resource or recreational use impacts. Fertilizers may not be used except in Development and Access Zones.

Natural fires in Wilderness or Nature Reserve Zones normally will be allowed to burn undisturbed unless they threaten human life, other zones, or lands outside the Park. Natural fires threatening the values for which Nature Reserve or Historical Zones have been established will be suppressed. Prescribed burning may be carried out in Wilderness or Nature Reserve Zones to simulate natural fire when desirable. All other fires will be suppressed. A fire management plan will be prepared for each large area Natural Environment Park. The preceding guidelines may be varied in such plans in response to local conditions. Fire suppression techniques used will have as minimal effect as possible on the Park's environment. Such means of suppression as bulldozing, and water bombing with chemical additives, will not be permitted except in critical situations.

Native forest and vegetative insects and diseases in Wilderness or Nature Reserve Zones normally will be allowed to develop undisturbed. Native insects and diseases threatening the values for which Nature Reserve or Historical Zones have been established, or the aesthetic values of Development Zones, or values outside the Park, will be controlled where feasible. Insects and diseases not native to a Park's forest region will be controlled where feasible. Where control is desirable, it will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease so as to have minimal effects on other components of the Park's environment. Biological control will be used wherever feasible.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS
PART IV
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

2. Environmental Management

a) Lands and Waters

The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry out mining operations in Historical Zones which present authentic activities associated with historical mining industry resources. Otherwise, commercial mineral exploration and extraction will not be permitted.

No new utility lines or rights-of-way may be developed except for those required for servicing the Park.

Park user solid waste and sewage will be disposed outside the Park through local facilities wherever possible. Where there is no practical alternative, landfill sites, incinerators, and sewage lagoons may be located in Access and Development Zones only.

In Wilderness Zones, waters will not be controlled. In Nature Reserve and Historical Zones, waters may be controlled for the perpetuation of natural and cultural values. In Natural Environment, Development, and Access Zones, waters may be controlled to a limited extent to enhance recreational opportunities where this does not conflict with natural or cultural values. No new water control structures will be built in Wilderness and Natural Environment Zones, or in Nature Reserve and Historical Zones except for the perpetuation of natural and cultural values where desirable. Where existing water control practices are discontinued, existing structures will be removed or allowed to deteriorate, unless they are essential for water control outside the Park, or their removal would result in an environmental impact more adverse than their retention.

b) Flora

Commercial forest operations will not be permitted. The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry out forest operations in Historical Zones which present authentic activities associated with historical forest industry resources. Where trees are removed for development or management purposes in Natural Environment, Development, Historical, or Access Zones, they may be marketed if economic. In Algonquin and Lake Superior Parks only, special Recreation-Utilization Zones have been established for the purpose of permitting commercial timber harvesting within areas devoted to recreational activities characteristic of Natural Environment Zones in Natural Environment Parks.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

c) Fauna

Non-native animal species will not be introduced, except for historically authentic species in Historical Zones where these will not have a detrimental impact on the environment of other zones in the Park, and where the movement of the species can be restricted within the Historical Zone. Missing native species may be reintroduced, and existing populations replenished, if biologically feasible and acceptable.

Animal populations may be controlled when essential to protect human health and safety of the health of the species outside the Park. Where control is desirable, techniques will be used having minimal effects on other components of the Park's environment. Any hunting or trapping required in control will be carried out under the strict supervision of, or directly by, the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Sport fishing will be encouraged in Natural Environment Parks. In Wilderness Zones, low-intensity sport fishing will be encouraged to the extent compatible with the maintenance of healthy endemic fish populations. To this end, special sessions, size limits, and limits of catch may be established in Wilderness Zones, and in other zones where appropriate. Fishing will not be permitted in Nature Reserve Zones. Native fish species may be stocked for put and delayed take sport fishing in Natural Environment and Development Zones. Fish stocking programmes in individual Parks must avoid action which would affect endemic fish populations protected in Nature Reserve Zones. The use or possession of bait fish will be prohibited. Certain water bodies may be closed to fishing temporarily or permanently for fisheries research or management purposes.

Commercial fishing, including commercial bait fishing, will not be permitted on water bodies entirely enclosed within Natural Environment Parks.

Low-intensity sport hunting may be permitted only in Natural Environment Zones where public participation during master planning clearly demonstrates a need for hunting opportunities in the Zone; where there are no alternative hunting opportunities in the local area of equivalent accessibility, quality, and significance; where the Zone initially has the resource base to provide a quality hunting experience without habitat management; and where hunting can be effectively separated in time and space from other recreational activities in the Zone. Except in Wilderness, Nature Reserve, and Historical Zones, habitats may be managed to a modest degree to enhance wildlife viewing and, where permitted, hunting, where compatible with the Park's natural and cultural values and other recreational uses. Areas open to hunting may be closed to hunting temporarily or permanently for wildlife research or management purposes.

Existing commercial trapping rights will be phased out in a manner least harmful to the economic wellbeing of existing trappers indigenous to the area. No new trappers or traplines will be permitted. Commercial trapping will not be permitted in Nature Reserve Zones.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

3. Recreation Management

A Management/Operating Plan will be prepared for each Natural Environment Park, in accordance with Park Management/Operating Plan guidelines issued by Provincial Parks Branch. Each such Plan will establish detailed guidelines and procedures for the management and operation of Park activities and facilities.

Day-use, facility-based camping, and back-country camping activities which are based on interaction with the natural environment, and appreciation of its natural and cultural values, will be encouraged in Natural Environment Parks. Recreational activities will be low-intensity in nature except in Development Zones where they may be of moderate intensity. Recreational activities and facilities encouraged in each zone are set out in Figure 5.

Motorized land vehicles and watercraft of any kind will not be permitted except in Development and Access Zones, with the following exceptions. The Ministry of Natural Resources may where desirable in Historical Zones operate means of public conveyance authentic to those zones. Motorboats may be permitted on designated water bodies in Natural Environment Zones. Where permitted, their power may be restricted. Snowmobiles may be permitted on designated trails in Natural Environment Zones where compatible with environmental values and other recreational uses and when alternative snowmobiling opportunities in the local area are limited. Land vehicle use in Access Zones will normally be for access purposes only. Where Access Zones provide access to back-country travel, vehicles will where possible be parked in areas of the Access Zone beyond sight and sound of the travel route proper. Restrictions on low level flying may be established over Natural Environment Parks. The use of motorized transportation by the Ministry of Natural Resources for purposes other than historically authentic public conveyance will conform to these standards wherever possible.

Capacity standards may be established for Natural Environment Parks which will serve as safeguards against unregulated and indiscriminate back-country use, so that excessive use in certain areas will not damage natural environment values. To this end, limits on size of parties, and on the number of parties permitted to use designated areas at any one time, may be established. Back-country camping may be limited to designated sites. Any activities may be restricted or prohibited in Nature Reserve and Historical Zones where necessary to maintain the values for which these zones have been established.

Back-country campers travelling in Natural Environment, Wilderness, Nature Reserve, and Historical Zones will be

FIGURE 5
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES ENCOURAGED IN
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

This figure shows activities and facilities encouraged in Natural Environment Parks, by zone. It should be noted that zones are subordinate to the Park class. Therefore activities encouraged or not permitted in an Access Zone, for example, in one class of park will not necessarily be the same as those in an Access Zone in another class.

The left hand column includes both activities and facilities. Facilities have been used where the accompanying activity is totally dependent on specially designed facilities (e.g., golfing requires a golf course, pool swimming requires a swimming pool). Activities have been used where facilities are not essential to the pursuit of the activity. Most of these activities may be pursued with or without facilities. Where both options are a realistic possibility, the activity is preceded by an asterisk, and two symbols are given. The first symbol refers to the activity without supporting facilities; the second, to the activity with facilities. For those activities not preceded by an asterisk, special facilities are not normally required (e.g., orienteering, historical appreciation) or are at a minimal level and are covered elsewhere (e.g., canoeing). In all cases, the development of any facilities will be at a level appropriate to the zone in question and subject to the general development policies for each zone. This list of activities and facilities is not, however, intended to be exhaustive.

Symbols

- Y - Normally encouraged in this zone.
- M - May be encouraged in this zone in certain parks of this class where appropriate.
- Blank - Not compatible with this zone; if now exists, a non-conforming use which will be phased out.
- a - If authentic to the Historical Zone.

Zones

Activities and Facilities

- Arboretums
- Archery facilities (temporary)
- *Angling
- *Boating (ice)
- * (powered)

D	A	W	NR	H	NE
M					
Y/Y	M/M	Y/		M/M ^a	Y/M
Y/M	M/M	M/	M/	M/	Y/
M/M	M/M			M ^a /M ^a	M/

Figure 5 cont'd

	D	A	W	NR	H	NE
Campgrounds (car)	Y	M				
(boat-in or walk-in)	M	M				M
(group, day)	M					
(group, overnight)	M	M				
(back-country campsites)			Y			Y
Canoeing	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
* Cycling	Y/M	Y/M			M/M ^a	M/M
Demonstration areas (demonstration farms, logging exhibits, etc.)	M				M	
Dog trials	M					
Golf courses						
* Hiking	Y/Y	Y/M	Y/Y	M/M	M/M	Y/Y
Historical appreciation	Y	M	Y	M	M	Y
* Horseback trail riding	M/M	M/M			M/M	M/M
* Hunting						
* Ice skating	Y/M	Y/M	Y/	M/	M/	Y/
Kite flying	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y/
* Model aircraft flying						
* Model boat operation	M/					
Nature appreciation	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Orienteering	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Outfitting services	M	M				
Painting	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Parkways for pleasure driving	M					
Performing arts	M				M ^a	
Photography	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Picnic grounds	Y	Y			M	
Playing fields, open space	M					
Playgrounds	M					
Recreation programmes (organized)	M				M ^a	
Religious programmes (organized)	M				M ^a	
Resorts	M				M ^a	
Restaurants and food services	Y				M ^a	
Roller skating rinks						
* Sailing	Y/M	M/M	M/	M/	M/	Y/
Shooting facilities (temporary)	M					
* Scuba and skin diving	M/M	M/	M/	M/	M/	M/
* Skiing (cross country)	Y/M	Y/M	Y/	M/	M/M	Y/M
* (downhill)						
* Sledding	Y/M	Y/	Y/	M/	M/	Y/
* Snowmobiling	M/M	M/M				M/M
Snowshoeing	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
* Swimming	Y/Y	Y/M	Y/	M/	M/M ^a	Y/
Swimming pools and lakes (artificial)					M ^a	
Tennis courts						
* Trail biking						

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

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DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

required to pack out all non-burnable garbage. The use of non-burnable, disposable food and beverage containers in those zones may be prohibited. Management systems will be established in each Natural Environment Park for garbage cleanup and general maintenance of back-country campsites, portages, and trails in Natural Environment, Wilderness, Nature Reserve and Historical Zones.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS
PART IV
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

4. Visitor Services

a) Information

A high quality public information service, using print, audio-visual, and display media, organized programmes, and personal contact, will be essential for each Park. Where appropriate, these services will include the provision of detailed information on back-country travel through prior information as well as through orientation centres and outfitting facilities in Access and Development Zones. The term "Natural Environment Park" will be incorporated into the name of the Park for public identification purposes wherever possible. All brochures, maps, Park signs, etc., will indicate this designation; for example, Bon Echo Provincial Natural Environment Park.

b) Interpretation

Interpretive programmes and facilities will provide visitors with opportunities to learn and experience the character and significance of individual Natural Environment Parks. Priority will be given to programmes and facilities which will assist visitors in exploring and appreciating natural and cultural themes of provincial significance. A wide range of programmes will be offered which will reflect the diversity of features and resources in Natural Environment Parks, and will be directed particularly towards user groups with the highest incidence of potential interest, such as destination campers. Printed material, self-use facilities, informal personal contact, and in Access and Development Zones, organized programmes and large-scale facilities where appropriate, will be the primary means of interpretation.

Certain Natural Environment Parks will serve as major programme centres, where fully developed programmes will provide a wide variety of high quality interpretive services. These Parks will also serve as resource centres to aid less developed programmes in nearby Parks.

c) Recreation Programmes

In Access and Development Zones, programmes may be offered to develop the outdoor skills of users so that they may better enjoy the recreational environment of individual Parks. Natural environment recreation skills to be promoted would be limited to those appropriate to the individual Park and could include, for example, canoeing, camping, cross-country skiing, wilderness survival, angling, sailing, and rock climbing. There may also be opportunities for participation in historic activities

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

associated with individual Parks. Programmes, where developed, will be complementary to those offered in other parks and by other public agencies and the private sector.

d) Outdoor Education

Outdoor education use of Natural Environment Parks will be limited to groups with a specific interest in the natural or cultural features of individual Parks. Group activities must be compatible with protection needs in individual Parks. Specialized information services to assist leaders of interested organized school groups will only be provided in association with large-scale interpretive facilities. Where appropriate, these facilities may be developed and operated on a shared cost basis with local educational agencies which would use them principally during Park off-seasons.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

5. Scientific Research

Scientific research by qualified individuals, which contributes to knowledge of natural and cultural history, and to environmental and recreational management of natural landscapes, will be encouraged in Natural Environment Parks.

All research programmes will require the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and must also meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation. The Ministry may approve the removal of faunal and flora specimens, soil and geological samples, and archaeological and historical artifacts by qualified researchers. All such materials removed remain the property of the Ministry. Approved research activities and facilities will be compatible with protection values and recreational uses in individual Parks, and will be subject to development and management policies for Natural Environment Parks unless special permission is given. Sites altered by research activities will be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS
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ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

WATERWAY PARKS

WATERWAY PARKS
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WATERWAY PARKS INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Provincial Parks system is:

To provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural, and recreational environments, in a system of Provincial Parks.

The objectives of the Provincial Parks system are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Protection
Objective | <i>To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.</i> |
| 2. Recreation
Objective | <i>To provide Provincial Park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.</i> |
| 3. Heritage
Appreciation
Objective | <i>To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.</i> |
| 4. Tourism
Objective | <i>To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.</i> |

The six classes of Provincial Parks together achieve these objectives. Waterway Parks incorporate outstanding recreational water routes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences. Waterway Parks contribute to the achievement of all four objectives.

WATERWAY PARKS

PART I

A WATERWAY PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

1. Historical Background

Waterways are pathways of the evolution of a land and its people. They play a major part in shaping the face of the land, in circulating its water, and in harbouring and distributing its life forms. They are also basic to the history of a society. In Ontario, before the railway and the automobile, they were the primary corridors for migration, commerce, and communication for both Indians and Europeans. In the 19th and 20th centuries, they have provided power for industry and served, too often, as sewers.

Though heavily used by native peoples, Ontario's waterways remained largely unaltered by human action until the close of the 18th century. At that time, the advent of European agricultural settlement brought about alteration of watershed cycles and erosion of shorelines in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands through impoundments for milling and manufacturing and large scale clearing of forests. As towns, industry, and agriculture grew through the 19th century, associated erosion and pollution became widespread. Almost every major waterway in the Lowlands was substantially altered from its pre-European settlement state. In many waterways, vegetative and animal populations were decimated, cycles of erosion and deposition were upset, and water quality was seriously degraded.

While many waterways of the Lowlands and the South Shield were put to considerable recreational use at particularly accessible, attractive points along the way, their potential for recreational water travel was exploited only to a limited degree until recent years. The shallow draught Rideau and Trent canal systems were an exception. Heavy recreational water travel use of these canals began with the advent of motorized pleasure craft. Though the canals were built primarily for military and commercial purposes, recreational traffic has been dominant on them and has been the principal motivating factor in their maintenance and improvement since early in the 20th century.

Significant recreational water travel use of the major rivers of Northern Ontario began around the turn of the century. This use was based on the natural qualities of the rivers, which had remained almost completely unaltered until this time. Trips down rivers such as the Mississagi were popular excursions for wealthy outdoorsmen. But the dramatic growth of the resource extraction economy brought to the North saw mills, pulp and paper mills, mining and refining, hydro dams, and water diversion. Within a few decades these developments had substantially altered most of the great rivers of the North, save those draining into Hudson Bay north of the Albany.

WATERWAY PARKS

PART I

A WATERWAY PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

In the postwar period, demand for "wild" and "natural" river preservation and recreation has risen sharply with the larger growth in interest in natural environment preservation and recreation. Interest in "wild" rivers has been further heightened by increasing interest in Ontario's Indian, exploration, and fur trade river-related heritage. The 1967 Provincial Parks classification scheme established a Wild River Parks class, and in 1969 the first such park was designated on the Winisk River. Since then, four other parks have been designated: Lady Evelyn River, Mississagi River, Chapleau-Nemegosenda River, and Mattawa River.

Such recreational development of waterways as has taken place in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands has been spearheaded by Conservation Authorities. Originally established in the 1940s and 1950s for watershed resource conservation and flood control purposes, Conservation Authorities have since the 1950s become important recreational agencies as well, providing through the establishment of conservation areas many new opportunities for recreational travel on and use of waterways. Authority dams, channelization, and like measures have also had a significant impact on recreation riverscapes.

In the postwar period, both non-mechanized and mechanized recreational water travel use of Southern Ontario waterways has grown rapidly. Improvement in aesthetic and sanitary quality of many waterways following such measures as abandonment of mills and installation of sewage treatment facilities, and growth in public recreation facilities along waterways and increasing demand for near-urban outdoor recreation, have been major factors favouring increasing use of southern waterways.

The Waterway class of parks has developed out of, and is successor to, the Wild River class established in 1967. Since then it has been realized that the term "wild river" and its connotations do not adequately encompass the full range of waterways which can provide quality recreational water travel experiences. It has been recognized that this class of parks should include challenging "wild" rivers for the experienced canoe tripper, turbulent stretches for the whitewater enthusiast, developed, accessible waterways for the pleasure boater, and stretches with strong historical association for all types of users who wish to complement their present day experience with identification with past waterway users.

WATERWAY PARKS

PART I

A WATERWAY PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

2. The Need for Waterway Parks

Watersheds are ecological units, and river systems are the arteries of those ecological units. These river systems are also outstanding components of the landscape. With them are associated many significant natural, cultural, and recreational environments. Present day development pressures threaten much of the remaining natural and historical integrity of our waterways.

Today's traveller of Ontario's waterways can still experience a great diversity of natural landscapes, extending from the fringes of the Appalachians to the edge of the Prairies and ranging from Arctic tundra to southern deciduous forest. The bulk of the Province is underlain by the Canadian Shield whose waterways are the archetypal environment for recreational water travel. The traveller can experience a full range of river types, from turbulent waters plunging through mile upon mile of rapids and falls, to quiet, gently meandering streams, to strong, steady rivers awesome in dimension. The Ontario waterway traveller can also experience a wide spectrum of cultural landscapes, from the pastoral long-settled South, to the mid-North where the impact of recent resource and recreational history is very evident, to the far North where the past is suggested by sparse and ghostly remains of the prehistoric Indian and the fur trader. The waterway traveller sees these landscapes and the river itself change as he travels, and becomes part of the process of perpetual movement and change which is that waterway.

In today's Ontario, all waterways require some form of management in the public interest which includes recognition of economic necessity as well as concern for natural and cultural quality. Many of our waterways must continue to serve primarily economic needs. Others can be managed so as to maximize both economic and recreational benefits. Still others must be managed so that natural and cultural values and quality recreational opportunities come first and foremost. The dedication of some of Ontario's most significant waterways to protection and recreation is an essential component of a positive strategy of management of all of Ontario's waterways.

Estimating the need for Waterway Parks is a difficult task. Data sources are limited. The types of water travel recreation to be provided for range from very low to very high intensity. Waterway recreation is intimately related to recreation in Wilderness Parks and in the interior of Natural Environment Parks. The dominant recreation activity in most of these latter areas is recreational water travel. Waterway recreation also takes place on water routes in Crown land, and on accessible and legally navigable water routes passing through private lands. All of these recreational resources help to meet the demand for recreational water travel.

WATERWAY PARKS

PART I

A WATERWAY PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

Despite data limitations, it is apparent that the growth in demand for recreational water travel opportunities continues to exceed population growth. In the postwar period, growth initially in motorboat ownership and use, and more recently in canoe, kayak, and sailboat ownership and use, has been rapid. For example, between 1969 and 1975, the number of users of Algonquin Park interior waterways more than doubled.

Present and future participation in back-country recreational travel is discussed in Wilderness Parks. That discussion provides the projections set out in Figure 1. Both Natural Environment and Waterway Parks contribute to the supply of opportunities for "non-wilderness" back-country camping. It is estimated that in 1975 approximately 550,000 user days of back-country camping occurred in Provincial Parks. Only a very small proportion of this took place in the five existing Wild River Parks.

There is very little information on the capacity of Ontario water routes to accommodate recreational travel. Even the length of potential water routes is uncertain. The Ministry of Natural Resources has identified and made information available on 22,555 km (14,015 miles) of canoe routes, 18,276 km of which are in northern Ontario and 4,279 km in the south.

Park user statistics in 1975 show that in Algonquin Park, there were 141 user days of back-country travel per km of waterway. In Quetico Park, the comparable figure was 80 user days per km. It can be suggested that relatively accessible waterways might on average be expected to provide 50 to 100 user days per km per year. High-intensity use areas can be expected to provide more; low-intensity use areas, less. Following this guide, a hypothetical network of 5,000 km of Waterway Parks might be expected to provide in the vicinity of 250,000 to 500,000 user days of recreational water travel per year. This network would most likely meet somewhere between 17% and 27% of the total non-wilderness back-country travel needs projected for 1991 (see Figure 1).

There is also an unknown but significant demand for day-use recreational water travel opportunities near major population centres. Waterway Parks contribute to the supply of these opportunities. Waterway Parks also make some contribution to the supply of other Provincial Park day-use opportunities, and Provincial Park facility-based camping opportunities. The need for these latter opportunities is discussed in Recreation Parks.

FIGURE 1
PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN BACK-COUNTRY AND NON-WILDERNESS TRAVEL

		('000's of User Days per Year)					
		1976		1981		1991	
		Residents Only	Residents & Non-Residents	Residents Only	Residents & Non-Residents	Residents Only	Residents & Non-Residents
Projection I							
Total Back-Country Travel		1,300	1,600	1,400	1,800	1,600	2,000
Non-Wilderness Travel (70% assumption)		910	1,120	980	1,260	1,120	1,400
Projection II							
Total Back-Country Travel		1,300	1,600	2,200	2,700	2,600	3,200
Non-Wilderness Travel (70% assumption)		910	1,120	1,540	1,890	1,820	2,240

Note: These projections cannot be translated directly into area requirements.

WATERWAY PARKS

PART I

A WATERWAY PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

3. A Policy for Waterway Parks

Waterway Parks incorporate outstanding recreational water routes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.

Waterway Parks are corridors based on major water routes¹ and including associated lands which are of particular recreational, historical, and natural interest. They may range from "wild" rivers offering challenge and solitude for a few visitors to highly developed corridors offering a wide range of recreational opportunities for many visitors. Activities may range from river travel by canoe in remote natural areas, to motorboat travel, car camping, and day use on both land and water in developed areas.

What all Waterway Parks have in common as the reason for their existence is a water route which can be travelled for pleasure. They offer to their users a chance to experience the power and continuity of Ontario's great rivers and to appreciate the central place of those rivers in the natural and cultural heritage of the province.

The Waterway class of parks contributes to the achievement of the following objectives of the Provincial Parks system by:

Protection
Objective:

Protecting a system of provincially significant waterways incorporating natural, cultural, and recreational features.

Waterway Parks will protect a range of representative waterway environments. These waterways will be those which incorporate the greatest possible diversity of provincially significant earth and life science features, provincially significant landscape-related prehistorical and historical resources, and outstanding opportunities for recreational water travel. The system for representation is defined in Part II of this document.

Recreation
Objective:

- a) Providing day-use opportunities in areas of outstanding recreational potential associated with waterways.
- b) Providing facility-based camping opportunities on waterways and in associated areas of outstanding recreational potential.

1 A major water route may include part or all of one or more rivers, lakes, or canals, and interconnecting portages, such that it is both historically and now a feasible and practical linear or loop route for water travel.

WATERWAY PARKS

PART I

A WATERWAY PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

Certain Waterway Parks will provide day-use and facility-based camping opportunities where appropriate.

- c) Providing waterway back-country travel and camping opportunities.

Waterway Parks will provide a full range of recreational water travel opportunities. Individual Parks will range from those which provide back-country travel and camping opportunities for users desiring the challenge and solitude of "wild" rivers, to those which provide opportunities for users desiring facility-oriented recreational water travel, users desiring travel experiences which afford opportunities for natural or cultural appreciation without substantial physical challenge, and users ultimately desiring a "wild river" type experience but requiring initial "threshold" waterway experience in order to become more aware of, and gain the requisite skills for, the more challenging experience.

Heritage
Appreciation
Objective:

- a) Providing opportunities for unstructured individual exploration and appreciation of the waterway heritage of Ontario.

Individual exploration and appreciation will be encouraged to the greatest extent compatible with and complementary to protection of waterway environments, earth and life science features, and historical resources.

- b) Providing opportunities for exploration and appreciation of natural and cultural environments through interpretation and education based upon the character and significance of Waterway Parks.

Interpretive and educational programmes will be developed to reflect the natural features and cultural resources of Waterway Parks and will be of a scale and nature appropriate to the individual Park.

Tourism
Objective:

- Providing Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience distinctive regions of the Province.

Certain Waterway Parks will where appropriate provide day-use and camping opportunities for passing travellers, as well as destination camping opportunities for those attracted from considerable distances.

WATERWAY PARKS

PART II

SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

1. Representation

Waterway Parks will represent a diverse range of natural, cultural, and recreational waterway environments in Ontario. In establishing Waterway Parks, the target is to represent each of the site districts of the Province. This will require the establishment of Waterway Parks so that at least one representative Waterway Park passes through each site district. Appropriate National Parks, and waterway corridors covered by federal-provincial Agreements for Recreation and Conservation, will contribute to waterway representation.

Ontario is divided into 13 site regions on the basis of biological productivity criteria. Each site region is an area of relatively uniform effective climate and is therefore an area of particular biological productivity characteristics. In each site region, soil, climate, and living organisms interact in a particular way. These site regions are further subdivided into 65 site districts on the basis of landform. Thus each site district delimits a distinctive combination of physiographic and biotic conditions. The 65 site districts are illustrated in Figures 2 and 3.

In keeping with the philosophy and objectives of Waterway Parks, parks intended for low-intensity use should be not less than one and one-half days average downstream canoe trip in length and parks intended for high-intensity use should be not less than one-half day average downstream canoe trip in length.

It may not be possible to establish Waterway Parks in certain Southern Ontario site districts which lack the necessary resources. Where possible, additional Waterway Parks may be established to respond to recreational needs in site districts within day or weekend use range of major population centres. In site districts where major waterways are included in Wilderness or Natural Environment Parks, it may not be necessary to establish Waterway Parks.

FIGURE 2

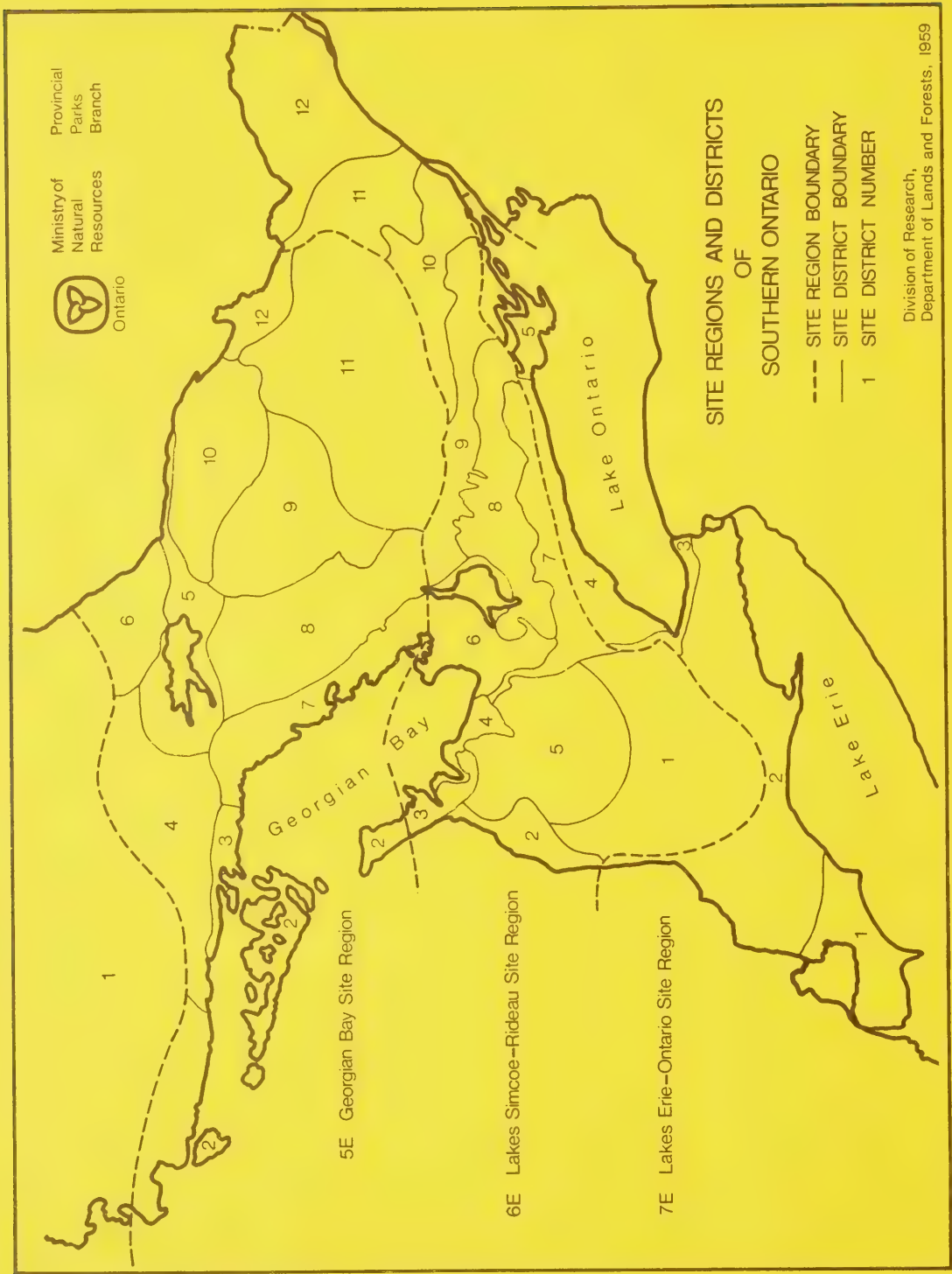
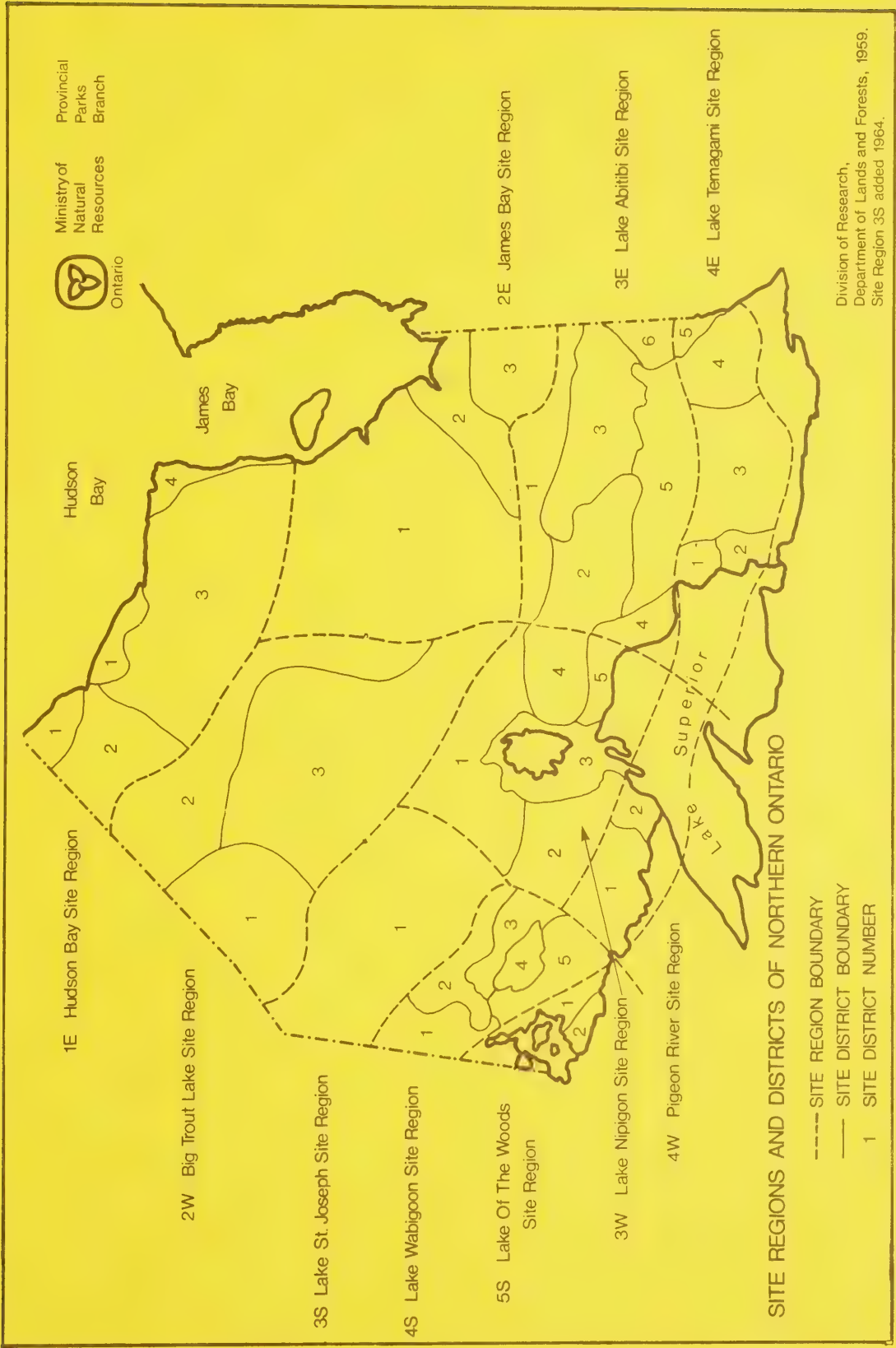


FIGURE 3



WATERWAY PARKS
PART II
SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

2. Evaluation

Potential Waterway Parks will be evaluated for their suitability for Waterway Park designation and consequent ability to contribute to the achievement of parks system objectives, through their incorporation of significant natural, cultural, and recreational values in representative waterway environments.

Potential Waterway Parks will require evaluation of the quality and integrity of their natural landscapes and of the ability of those landscapes to represent the waterway-related environments of their site districts.

Waterway Parks should contain the greatest possible diversity of special and representative earth and life science features. Prospective areas will require evaluation of the quality and integrity of their earth and life science features and of the ability of these features to represent the earth science history of the Province and the life science diversity of the site regions of the Province.

Prospective areas will be evaluated for their historical significance. Areas should include the greatest possible diversity of special and representative waterway-related historical resources. For each historical theme segment, the waterways which are related to it have been demarcated and the degree of significance of those waterways to the theme segment determined. The evaluation scheme described in Historical Parks has been modified to enable the evaluation of historical resources in potential Waterway Parks. The individual variables to be used in this evaluation follow.

Variables

Accessibility to Resource from Waterway
Land Base Capability
Significance and Waterway Dependence of Historical
Theme Segments
Quality and Integrity of Historical Features
Resource Representation of Historical Theme Segments

Prospective areas will be evaluated both for potential for low-intensity and potential for high-intensity water travel recreation. An evaluation scheme has been designed to enable the evaluation of the potential of a stretch of waterway corridor for recreational use appropriate to a Waterway Park. The individual variables to be used in this evaluation follow. Variables preceded by an asterisk have minimum criteria. Failure to satisfy minimum criteria for any asterisked variable will suggest that the prospective area has inadequate potential for whichever of low-intensity or high-intensity recreation is being measured.

WATERWAY PARKS

PART II

SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

Variables

Potential for Low-Intensity Recreation

- * Length
- * Navigability
- * Diversity of Conditions for Watercraft
- * Accessibility
- * Campsite and Landing Availability
- * Carrying Capacity
- * Water Quality
- * Impoundments
- * Conflicting Activities: Road, Rail, Utility
- * Conflicting Activities: Settlement
- * Conflicting Activities: Urban-Industrial-Extractive

Potential for High-Intensity Recreation

- * Navigability
- * Diversity of Conditions for Watercraft
- * Accessibility
- * Campsite and Landing Availability
- * Carrying Capacity
- * Water Quality

Priority will be given to qualifying areas where Waterway Park potential is in danger of deterioration due to lack of protection.

Economic activities and potentials associated with alternative land and resource uses will be considered and thoroughly evaluated.

The meeting of significant deficiencies of supply in day or weekend use recreational water travel opportunities will be a prime consideration in the establishment of any Waterway Parks above and beyond those required to complete the basic system.

The presence of complementary features above and beyond those evaluated which can contribute to parks system objectives will be an important consideration in park establishment. These features include significant natural environment and wilderness landscapes which serve to achieve the protection objective, and areas of outstanding potential for recreational development which serve to achieve the recreation and tourism objectives.

WATERWAY PARKS
PART III
MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

A Master Plan will be prepared for each Waterway Park. Each Master Plan will establish detailed policy guidelines for the Park's long term protection, development, and management. Each Master Plan will be prepared in accordance with Master Planning and Public Participation Guidelines, issued by Provincial Parks Branch.

I. Zoning

Lands and waters within each Waterway Park will be zoned so that they may be allocated to their most appropriate use relative to the Park. Waterway Parks may include Natural Environment, Historical, Development, Access, Nature Reserve, and Wilderness Zones. Figure 4 illustrates hypothetical examples of zoning in Waterway Parks.

Natural Environment Zones include aesthetic sections of the corridor in which there is minimum development required to support low-intensity recreational water travel activities, and associated aesthetic landscapes.

Historical Zones include any significant historical resources in the corridor which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones, and sections of the corridor in which there are outstanding opportunities for identification with historic waterway users and activities.

Development Zones provide access where appropriate for large numbers to the water route, and facilities and services for a wide range of day-use and camping activities where appropriate.

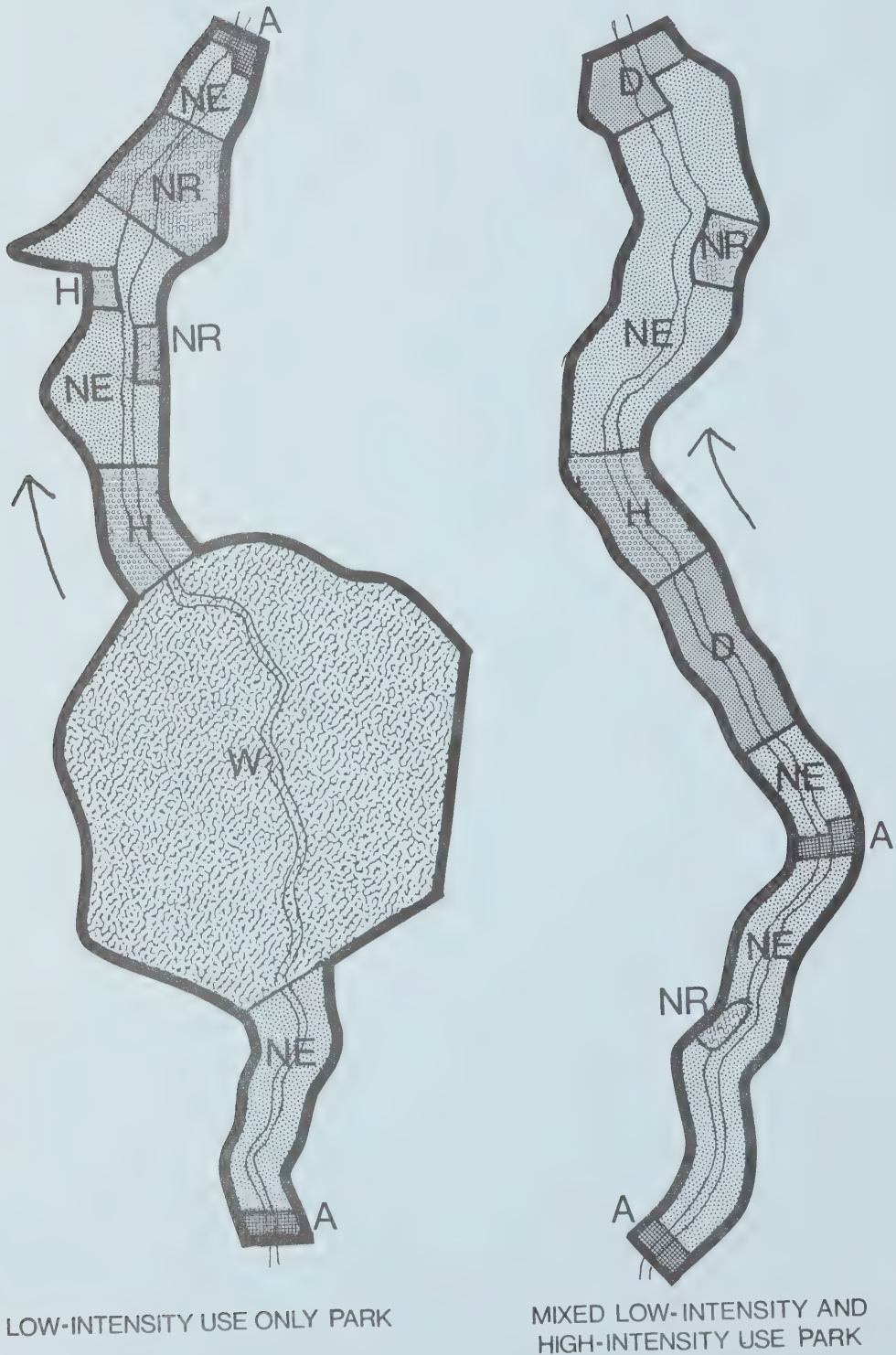
Access Zones serve as staging areas where minimum facilities support use of less developed portions of the water route.

Nature Reserve Zones include any significant earth and life science features in the corridor which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones.

Wilderness Zones include associated wilderness landscapes of appropriate size and integrity which protect significant natural and cultural features and are suitable for wilderness experiences.

FIGURE 4

HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE OF ZONING
IN WATERWAY PARKS



WATERWAY PARKS
PART III
MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

2. Land and Water Uses

A boundary shall be described for each Waterway Park to include, as well as the waters and portages of the water route itself, adjacent public lands (vested in the Ministry of Natural Resources) on both sides sufficient to maintain for the waterway user perceptual integrity appropriate to the waterway. This boundary will be determined on the basis of lines of sight, contiguity of landforms and natural and cultural features, and ecological integrity. The boundary shall be not less than 200 m from the shoreline. This is a minimum standard to protect representative waterway corridors and provide scope and protection for recreational water travel activities. It shall normally not exceed 2 km from the shoreline except where nodes exist which include significant natural, cultural, or recreational landscapes or features which are complementary to the Park. Where a water route passes through a large lake where some of the waters and shoreline are remote from the route, discretion shall be used in determining the extent of the remote waters and shoreline to be included within the Waterway Park.

Accordingly, the boundary of a Waterway Park may include public lands and waters vested in the Ministry of Natural Resources, other federal, provincial, municipal, and other public agency lands, and private lands. Part or all of the lands not vested in the Ministry may be planned and zoned in the Master Plan, in cooperation with landowners and local and regional municipalities. Park development and management by the Ministry will normally be restricted to the Waterway Park proper, which will consist of the lands and waters within the Park boundary vested in the Ministry. However, the Ministry may cooperate with landowners in park development and management of lands within the Park boundary not vested in the Ministry and therefore not part of the Park proper.

Any waters, beds of waters, and portages of the water route within Waterway Parks not already in the public domain will be acquired. All alienated lands and waters within the boundaries of Wilderness Zones will be acquired. Other privately held lands will be acquired only as necessary to attain the objectives of the individual Park. As a minimum, lands will be acquired in Access and Development Zones to provide sufficient access, and, where necessary, resting and overnight camping points, for water travellers. Preference for acquisition will be given to lands with which outstanding natural or cultural values are associated, particularly where these values are threatened. All physical improvements on acquired lands will be removed, unless they are in a location and of such design as to be of value for park management or visitor services, or unless they are significant to the Park's history or complementary to its cultural landscape. Lands will not be leased for the private use of individuals or corporations.

WATERWAY PARKS
PART III
MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

In any Waterway Park, non-conforming land and water, resource, or recreational uses may exist at the time of its designation. Such uses will be identified as non-conforming uses in the Master Plan for the Park. No further expansion of these uses will be permitted. Provided that they are not demonstrably incompatible with the Park and the zone within which they are situated, such uses will be permitted to continue until the lands are acquired, the uses disappear through normal processes, or equal opportunities for such uses are provided elsewhere.

The use of a water route in a Waterway Park for economically and socially necessary transportation by residents of an indigenous community in the area may be recognized as a continuing non-conforming use. The cooperation of residents will be sought to ensure maximum compatibility of this transportation use with management policies for the Park and the zones within which this use is situated.

The master planning and development and management policies set out in this document are without prejudice to, and may be superseded by, any settlements of claims made between the Ontario Government and Indian bands in Ontario.

WATERWAY PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

1. Development

The location, design and materials of all facilities constructed within Waterway Parks will, to the maximum extent possible, reflect the environmental character of individual Parks. All development will be carried out in accordance with approved site plans and development plans.

Natural Environment Zones: Development will be limited to back-country campsites, portages, trails, necessary signs for route identification, minimal interpretive facilities, and similar simple facilities which will support low-intensity recreational activities. Along "wild river" stretches of waterway, development may be limited to the standard for Wilderness Zones (see below).

Historical Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, interpretive, educational, research, and management facilities, means of conveyance appropriate to the historical resource, and historical restorations or reconstructions where appropriate. Back-country campsites, portages, and signs necessary to back-country travel in the Park will be permitted. Restorations or reconstructions will conform to high standards of historical authenticity and will be complementary to and will not interfere with the integrity of the historical resource. Along "wild river" stretches of waterway, development may be limited to the standard for Wilderness Zones (see below).

Development Zones: Development may include roads, visitor control structures, day use facilities, car and boat campgrounds, basic commercial service facilities for visitors including marinas and outfitting facilities for waterway users, and orientation, interpretive, educational, research, and management facilities. Where appropriate to the Park, development may be carried out to the optimum carrying capacity of the land and water, and modifications made to land and water to permit higher levels of use. Otherwise, day-use and camping facilities will be developed to standards which will encourage natural environment based activities and provide for uncrowded conditions and relative freedom from the intrusions of fellow recreationists.

Access Zones: Development will be limited to roads, visitor control structures, car campgrounds, basic commercial service facilities for visitors including outfitting services for back-country users, and orientation, interpretive, educational, research, and management facilities. Car campgrounds will be developed to a basic standard and normally will be for the use of waterway travellers only, for one night both upon entering and leaving the Park. Where access to the zone is by foot, air, or water only, equivalent campgrounds may be developed to a basic standard appropriate to the means of access.

WATERWAY PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Nature Reserve Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, minimal interpretive facilities, and temporary facilities for research and management. Portages and signs necessary to back-country travel in the Park will be permitted.

Wilderness Zones: Development will be limited to wilderness campsites, portages, trails, and necessary signs for route identification. Wilderness campsites will be limited to facilities such as designated fireplaces and primitive privies.

WATERWAY PARKS
PART IV
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

2. Environmental Management

a) Lands and Waters

The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry out mining operations in Historical Zones which present authentic activities associated with historical mining industry resources. Otherwise, commercial mineral exploration and extraction will not be permitted.

Road, rail, and utility line crossings will be necessary in many Waterway Parks in order to maintain essential public services and commercial forest operations outside park boundaries. The number of existing and future crossings will be minimized where possible. Crossings will be managed to minimize their interference with recreational and aesthetic values. Particular attention will be paid to winter crossings used in commercial forest operations.

Park user solid waste and sewage will be disposed outside the Park through local facilities wherever possible. Where there is no practical alternative, landfill sites, incinerators, and sewage lagoons may be located in Access and Development Zones only.

In Wilderness Zones, waters will not be controlled. In Nature Reserve and Historical Zones, waters may be controlled for the perpetuation of natural and cultural values. In Natural Environment and Development Zones, waters may be controlled to enhance recreational opportunities where this does not conflict with natural or cultural values. No new water control structures will be built in Wilderness and Natural Environment Zones, or in Nature Reserve and Historical Zones except for the perpetuation of natural and cultural values where desirable. Water control practices in Natural Environment Zones will be limited to modest channel improvements made to improve recreational navigation which will not substantially alter the flow or morphology of the watercourse. Such practices may not be introduced into essentially undisturbed environments in these zones, however. Water control in Development Zones may include dams, locks, channelization, etc., designed to enhance recreational water travel opportunities in the Park. Where existing water control practices are discontinued, existing structures will be removed or allowed to deteriorate, unless they are essential for water control outside the Park, or their removal would result in an environmental impact more adverse than their retention.

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PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

b) Flora

Commercial forest operations will not be permitted. The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry out forest operations in Historical Zones which present authentic activities associated with historical forest industry resources. Where trees are removed for development or management purposes in Natural Environment, Development, Historical, or Access Zones, they may be marketed if economic.

The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry on agricultural operations in Historical Zones which present authentic activities associated with historical agricultural resources, or in Natural Environment, Development, Nature Reserve, and Access Zones for the perpetuation of natural features and conditions where desirable.

Non-native plant species will not be deliberately introduced, except for historically authentic species in Historical Zones where these will not have a detrimental impact on native plant communities elsewhere in the Park. Where non-native plant species are already established in Wilderness, Historical, or Nature Reserve Zones, and threaten the values for which those Zones have been established, a management programme for their eradication may be developed. Missing native species may be re-established if biologically feasible and acceptable, usually to rehabilitate the quality of areas suffering past or present resource or recreational use impacts. Fertilizers may not be used except in Development and Access Zones.

Natural fires in Wilderness or Nature Reserve Zones normally will be allowed to burn undisturbed unless they threaten human life, other zones, or lands outside the Park. Natural fires threatening the values for which Nature Reserve or Historical Zones have been established will be suppressed. Prescribed burning may be carried out in Wilderness or Nature Reserve Zones to simulate natural fire when desirable. All other fires will be suppressed. A fire management plan will be prepared for each Waterway Park where necessary. The preceding guidelines may be varied in such plans in response to local conditions. Fire suppression techniques used will have as minimal effect as possible on the Park's environment. Such means of suppression as bulldozing, and water bombing with chemical additives, will not be permitted except in critical situations.

Native forest and vegetative insects and diseases in Wilderness or Nature Reserve Zones normally will be allowed to develop undisturbed. Native insects and diseases threatening the values for which Nature Reserve or Historical Zones have been established, or the aesthetic values of Development Zones, or values outside the Park, will be controlled where feasible. Insects and diseases not native to a Park's forest region will

WATERWAY PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

be controlled where feasible. Where control is desirable, it will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease so as to have minimal effects on other components of the Park's environment. Biological control will be used wherever feasible.

c) Fauna

Non-native animal species will not be introduced, except for historically authentic species in Historical Zones where these will not have a detrimental impact on the environment of other zones in the Park, and where the movement of the species can be restricted within the Historical Zone. Missing native species may be reintroduced, and existing populations replenished, if biologically feasible and acceptable.

Animal populations may be controlled when essential to protect human health and safety or the health of the species outside the Park. Where control is desirable, techniques will be used having minimal effects on other components of the Park's environment. Any hunting or trapping required in control will be carried out under the strict supervision of, or directly by, the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Sport fishing will be encouraged in Waterway Parks. In Wilderness Zones low intensity sport fishing will be encouraged to the extent compatible with maintenance of healthy endemic populations. To this end, special seasons, size limits, and limits of catch may be established in Wilderness Zones, and in other zones where appropriate. Fishing will not be permitted in Nature Reserve Zones. Native fish species may be stocked for put and delayed take sport fishing, except in Wilderness and Nature Reserve Zone waters isolated from the waterway proper. The use or possession of bait fish will be prohibited except in high-intensity use Waterway Parks where they may be permitted. Certain water bodies may be closed to fishing temporarily or permanently for fisheries research or management purposes.

Commercial fishing, including commercial bait fishing, may be permitted on major water bodies within Waterway Parks, except for those entirely enclosed within Wilderness or Nature Reserve Zones.

Low-intensity sport hunting may be permitted only in Natural Environment Zones where public participation during master planning clearly demonstrates a need for hunting opportunities in the Zone; where there are no alternative hunting opportunities in the local area of equivalent accessibility, quality, and significance; where the Zone initially has the resource base to provide a quality hunting experience without habitat management; and where hunting can be effectively separated in time and space from other recreational activities in the Zone. Except in Wilderness, Nature Reserve, and Historical Zones, habitats may be managed to a modest degree to enhance wildlife viewing and, where permitted, hunting, where

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PART IV
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

compatible with the Park's natural and cultural values and other recreational uses. Areas open to hunting may be closed to hunting temporarily or permanently for wildlife research or management purposes.

Existing commercial trapping rights will be phased out in a manner least harmful to the economic wellbeing of existing trappers indigenous to the area. No new trappers or traplines will be permitted. Commercial trapping will not be permitted in Nature Reserve Zones.

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DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

3. Recreation Management

A Management/Operating Plan will be prepared for each Waterway Park, in accordance with Park Management/Operating Plan guidelines issued by Provincial Parks Branch. Each such plan will establish detailed guidelines and procedures for the management and operation of Park activities and facilities.

Day-use, facility-based camping, and back-country camping activities which are based on interaction with the waterway environment and appreciation of its natural and cultural values will be encouraged in Waterway Parks. Recreational activities will be low-intensity in nature except in Development Zones where they may be of moderate to high intensity and may include land-based activities where appropriate. Recreational activities and facilities encouraged in each zone are set out in Figure 5.

Motorized land vehicles and watercraft of any kind will not be permitted except in Development and Access Zones, with the following exceptions. The Ministry of Natural Resources may where desirable operate on water means of public conveyance authentic to Historical Zones. Any such conveyance in Wilderness Zones will be non-mechanized. Motorboats may be permitted on designated portions of waterway in Natural Environment Zones, and in Historical and Nature Reserve Zones where compatible with protection of the values of those zones and essential for the provision of desirable recreational water travel opportunities within the Park as a whole. Where permitted, their power may be restricted. Snowmobiles may be permitted on designated trails in Natural Environment Zones where compatible with environmental values and other recreational uses and when alternative snowmobiling opportunities in the local area are limited. Land vehicle use in Access Zones will normally be for access purposes only. Where possible, vehicles will be parked in Access Zones beyond sight and sound of the water route. Restrictions on low level flying may be established over Wilderness Zones. The use of motorized transportation by the Ministry of Natural Resources for purposes other than historically authentic public conveyance will conform to these standards whenever possible.

Capacity standards may be established for Waterway Parks which will serve as safeguards against unregulated and indiscriminate back-country use, so that excessive use in certain areas will not damage waterway values. To this end, limits on size of parties, and on the number of parties permitted to use designated areas at any one time, may be established. Back-country camping may be limited to designated sites. Any activities may be restricted or prohibited in Nature Reserve and Historical Zones where necessary to maintain the values for which these zones have been established.

FIGURE 5

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES ENCOURAGED IN
WATERWAY PARKS

This figure shows activities and facilities encouraged in Waterway Parks, by zone. It should be noted that zones are subordinate to the Park class. Therefore activities encouraged or not permitted in an Access Zone, for example, in one class of park will not necessarily be the same as those in an Access Zone in another class.

The left hand column includes both activities and facilities. Facilities have been used where the accompanying activity is totally dependent on specially designed facilities (e.g., golfing requires a golf course, pool swimming requires a swimming pool). Activities have been used where facilities are not essential to the pursuit of the activity. Most of these activities may be pursued with or without facilities. Where both options are a realistic possibility, the activity is preceded by an asterisk, and two symbols are given. The first symbol refers to the activity without supporting facilities; the second, to the activity with facilities. For those activities not preceded by an asterisk, special facilities are not normally required (e.g., orienteering, historical appreciation) or are at a minimal level and are covered elsewhere (e.g., canoeing). In all cases, the development of any facilities will be at a level appropriate to the zone in question and subject to the general development policies for each zone. This list of activities and facilities is not, however, intended to be exhaustive.

Symbols

- Y - Normally encouraged in this zone.
- M - May be encouraged in this zone in certain parks of this class where appropriate.
- Blank - Not compatible with this zone; if now exists, a non-conforming use which will be phased out.
- a - If authentic to the Historical Zone.

Zones

Activities and Facilities

- Arboretums
- Archery facilities (temporary)
- *Angling
- *Boating (ice)
- * (powered)

D	A	W	NR	H	NE
Y/Y	Y/M	Y/		M/M ^a	Y/M
Y/M	M/M	M/	M/	M/	Y/
Y/Y	M/M		M/	M/M	M/M

Figure 5 cont'd

	D	A	W	NR	H	NE
Campgrounds (car)	M					
(boat-in or walk-in)	M	M				M
(group, day)	M					
(group, overnight)	M	M				
(back-country campsites)			Y		M	Y
Canoeing	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y
* Cycling	Y/M	Y/M			M/M	M/M
Demonstration areas (demonstration farms, logging exhibits, etc.)					M ^a	
Dog trials	M					
Golf courses						
* Hiking	Y/Y	Y/M	Y/M	M/M	M/M	Y/Y
Historical appreciation	Y	M	Y	M	M	Y
* Horseback trail riding	M/M	M/M			M/M	M/M
* Hunting						M/M
* Ice skating	Y/M	Y/M	Y/	M/	M/	Y/
Kite flying	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
* Model aircraft flying						
* Model boat operation	M/M	M/				M/
Nature appreciation	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Orienteering	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Outfitting services	M	M				
Painting	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Parkways for pleasure driving	M					
Performing arts	M				M ^a	
Photography	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
Picnic grounds	Y	Y			M	
Playing fields, open space	M					
Playgrounds	M					
Recreation programmes (organized)	M				M ^a	
Religious programmes (organized)	M				M ^a	
Resorts	M				M ^a	
Restaurants and food services	Y				M ^a	
Roller skating rinks						
* Sailing	Y/M	M/M	M/	M/	M/	Y/
Shooting facilities (temporary)						
* Scuba and skin diving	M/M	M/	M/	M/	M/	M/
* Skiing (cross country)	Y/M	Y/M	Y/	M/	M/M	Y/M
* (downhill)						
* Sledding	Y/M	Y/	Y/	M/	M/	Y/
* Snowmobiling	M/M	M/M				M/M
Snowshoeing	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y
* Swimming	Y/Y	Y/M	Y/	M/	M/M ^a	Y/
Swimming pools and lakes (artificial)					M ^a	
Tennis courts						
* Trail biking						

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Back-country campers travelling in Natural Environment, Wilderness, Nature Reserve, and Historical Zones will be required to pack out all non-burnable garbage. The use of non-burnable, disposable food and beverage containers in those zones may be prohibited. Management systems will be established in each Waterway Park for garbage cleanup and general maintenance of back-country campsites, portages, and trails in Natural Environment, Wilderness, Nature Reserve, and Historical Zones.

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Parks. Programmes, where developed, will be complementary to those offered in other Parks and by other public agencies and the private sector.

d) Outdoor Education

Outdoor education use of Waterway Parks will be limited to groups with a specific interest in the natural or cultural features of individual Parks. Group activities must be compatible with protection needs in individual Parks. Specialized information services to assist leaders of interested organized school groups will only be provided in association with large-scale interpretive facilities. Where appropriate, these facilities may be developed and operated on a shared-cost basis with local educational agencies which would use them principally during Park off-seasons.

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PART IV
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4. Visitor Services

a) Information

A high quality public information service, using print, audiovisual, and display media and personal contact, will be essential for each Park. This service will be directed towards providing information on waterway travel in order to enhance the ability of the user to complete the route safely and successfully and explore and appreciate its resources. Where appropriate, these services will include the provision of detailed information on waterway travel through prior information as well as through orientation centres and outfitting facilities in Development and Access Zones. The term "Waterway Park" will be incorporated into the name of the Park for public identification purposes wherever possible. All brochures, maps, Park signs, etc., will indicate this designation; for example, Mattawa River Provincial Waterway Park.

b) Interpretation

Interpretive programmes and facilities will provide visitors with opportunities to learn and experience the character and significance of individual Waterway Parks. Priority will be given to programmes and facilities which will assist visitors in exploring and appreciating natural and cultural themes of provincial significance. Where appropriate, a wide range of programmes will be offered which will reflect the diversity of features and resources in Waterway Parks, and will be directed particularly towards user groups with the highest incidence of potential interest, such as back-country campers. Printed material, self-use facilities, informal personal contact, and in Access and Development Zones, organized programmes and large-scale facilities where appropriate, will be the primary means of interpretation. On remote, "wild river" stretches of waterway, no interpretive facilities will be provided in Wilderness, Nature Reserve, or Historical Zones, as the printed material and the Access Zone experience which users bring with them will allow them to create their own experience.

c) Recreation Programmes

In Access and Development Zones, programmes may be offered to develop the waterway skills of users so that they may better enjoy the recreational environment of individual Parks. Waterway recreation skills to be promoted would be limited to those appropriate to the individual Park and could include, for example, canoeing, sailing, camping, cross-country skiing, and wilderness survival. There may also be opportunities for participation in historic activities associated with individual

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5. Scientific Research

Scientific research by qualified individuals, which contributes to knowledge of natural and cultural history, and to environmental and recreational management of waterways, will be encouraged in Waterway Parks.

All research programmes will require the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and must also meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation. The Ministry may approve the removal of faunal and floral specimens, soil and geological samples, and archaeological and historical artifacts by qualified researchers. All such materials removed remain the property of the Ministry. Approved research activities and facilities will be compatible with protection values and recreational uses in individual Parks, and will be subject to development and management policies for Waterway Parks unless special permission is given. Sites altered by research activities will be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible.

WATERWAY PARKS
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ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

RECREATION PARKS

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RECREATION PARKS INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Provincial Parks system is:

To provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural, and recreational environments, in a system of Provincial Parks.

The objectives of the Provincial Parks system are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Protection
Objective | <i>To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.</i> |
| 2. Recreation
Objective | <i>To provide Provincial Park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.</i> |
| 3. Heritage
Appreciation
Objective | <i>To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.</i> |
| 4. Tourism
Objective | <i>To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.</i> |

The six classes of Provincial Parks together achieve these objectives. *Recreation Parks are areas which support a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities for large numbers of people in attractive surroundings. Recreation Parks contribute principally to the achievement of the recreation, heritage appreciation, and tourism objectives.*

RECREATION PARKS

PART I

A RECREATION PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

1. Historical Background

The use of natural environments away from home for outdoor recreation as we know it first developed in Ontario in the 19th century. The emerging privileged class in the towns on Lake Ontario began establishing summer retreats either on the Lake or north in what was then undeveloped forest. The earliest hunting and fishing camps or "boxes" known were those of retired British officers living in Cobourg who withdrew to Rice Lake in the 1850s for their sporting pleasures. By Confederation, Charleston Lake was also lined with cottages and boat houses of people who retired there for the summer. The trend in private summer retreats in the northern wilderness continued with the Kawarthas in the 1860s, and in the late 1870s reached Muskoka which boomed as a summer resort in the 1890s. In addition to private cottages and hunting camps, large resort hotels catering to high society were very popular.

The attractions of the Shield or any of the lakes north of Lake Ontario for urban dwellers were the cooler climate, scenic landscape, and opportunities for hunting, fishing, boating, and swimming. But there were popular resorts directly on Lakes Ontario and Erie. Methodist camp meetings had become institutionalized by the 1870s and established in permanent quarters in Grimsby, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and the Thousand Islands. These came to resemble summer resorts with religion taking a less important role. Scattered ports on the north shores of the Lakes became small summer resorts, most of which were heavily occupied by Americans.

All of this was a matter of private initiative. There were no government institutions or programmes directly related to the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities. Leisure and recreation as government functions in Ontario are primarily mid-20th century phenomena. However, the 19th century was not without its achievements. In 1887, by act of the Legislature of Ontario, Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park was established. This decision remains today as the largest single investment in relative terms ever made by the Province in outdoor recreation. Furthermore, it was to stand for several decades as the major Provincial investment in outdoor recreation within the urbanizing sections of Ontario.

Algonquin Park was established in 1893, and seven more Provincial Parks were added prior to 1945: Rondeau (1894), Quetico (1913), Long Point and Presqu'ile (1921), Ipperwash (1938), and Sibley and Lake Superior (1944). Each of these parks was established to achieve a particular combination of preservation and recreation objectives. However, all (except

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Ipperwash) were based on outstanding natural landscapes. Most were not readily accessible to major urban centres.

Since 1945, Ontario has been characterized by continuing change from a rural-based to an industrial-based economy. As populations urbanized, the characteristics of outdoor recreation changed. Traditional access to both public and private lands became increasingly restricted. Uniform hours of work and regular vacation periods became part of the time budgets of more Ontario residents. As industrialization and urbanization increased, outdoor recreation became more and more an activity which took place at specific times and places, compartmentalized from other activities. Increased discretionary spending and the improvement of transportation systems, accompanied by regular vacations, provided greater incentive for travel and greater means to do it. All these changes placed increasing demands in the postwar period on government to act to meet growing needs for outdoor recreation.

Municipal programmes associated with community parks and recreation grew rapidly in the postwar period and were given increasing provincial government support. This support ultimately evolved into a major element of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation established in 1975. Similarly, The Parks Assistance Act (1960) was directed towards providing municipalities with assistance in establishing car camping parks.

At the regional level, the Conservation Authorities programme, in partnership with local municipalities, was initiated in the late 1940s. This programme, originally directed toward watershed resource conservation and flood control, was initially viewed as having incidental recreation benefits. During their formative years, however, Authorities assembled a wealth of land which would contribute enormously towards supplying outdoor recreation opportunities.

At the provincial level, the most significant step taken during the postwar period was the establishment of a separate Division of Parks in the Department of Lands and Forests (1954). This marked the beginning of rapid expansion of the Provincial Parks system. The modest acquisition programme for outdoor recreation purposes was initiated to supplement the establishment of new parks on public lands. A number of roadside parks were transferred from the administration of the Department of Highways, and by 1963 the number of Provincial Parks had increased to over 80. Policies continued which were oriented towards locating Provincial Parks relatively distant from major urban centres.

In the late 1960s, substantial changes took place in the level of investment, the degree of attention, and the type of directions taken in outdoor recreation in the Province.

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At the regional level, the land resources which had been accumulated by the Conservation Authorities during the postwar years were recognized as important resources for outdoor recreation, and investments by Authorities in this aspect of their programmes increased significantly.

In the Provincial Parks system, three major new directions became evident in the late 1960s: the development of park classification, the establishment of research programmes relating to leisure and recreation, and the initiation of broad recreational land use planning programmes.

The Provincial Parks classification scheme of 1967 was significant in that it gave official recognition to the pressures that were occurring upon outstanding natural and cultural landscapes in the parks system, and it also recognized the need for recreation opportunities not based on such landscapes. The classification scheme recognized provincially significant features and environments and provided a management framework to protect them from overuse and overdevelopment. It also recognized the social and physical dimensions of outdoor recreation needs which did not require outstanding, provincially significant environments as a base. Through the formal recognition of Recreation Parks, for the first time a framework was provided by which the Province might focus attention on the outdoor recreation needs of urbanizing areas. Bronte Creek Park (1975) is the most significant evidence to date of this new direction.

Prior to the late 1960s, governments lacked a body of social research and knowledge upon which to plan for outdoor recreation needs. Park planning had previously been limited to site development design. Two major programmes were initiated in the late 1960s which would significantly alter the direction of outdoor recreation planning. These were CORDS (Canadian Outdoor Recreation Demand Study) a joint federal-provincial programme, and TORPS (Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Planning Study), an interdepartmental programme of the Ontario government. Both studies concentrated upon leisure behaviour and the development of adequate tools for recreation planning and management.

Efforts at recreational land use planning took two forms. The first was a comprehensive evaluation of outdoor recreation resource capability carried out during this period under the auspices of the Canada Land Inventory and its Ontario equivalent, the Ontario Land Inventory. These programmes represented the first comprehensive, standardized evaluation of the resource-based recreation capability of Ontario's lands and waters. The second was the evolution of land use planning with a primarily recreational orientation. Studies were initiated of areas such as the North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve, the Wasaga Beach Community, the Niagara Escarpment, the Rideau-Trent-Severn waterways, and Lake Temagami. Recreational land use planning now forms an integral part of land use planning in Ontario.

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2. The Need for Recreation Parks

Recreation can be defined as "activity voluntarily engaged in during leisure time and primarily motivated by the experience or pleasure derived from it." Just as people's values differ, so do their recreation preferences. Reading, bird watching, skiing, painting, walking, gardening, listening to music, dancing, swimming and stamp collecting are all common recreation activities. Not everyone enjoys all of these activities, and there are some who do not find satisfaction in any of them.

Outdoor recreation has always been a vital need and a positive force in human society. When most people lived on farms or in small communities, the outdoors was near at hand. A large proportion of the population worked outdoors every day. No recreation agencies were required to provide opportunities for walking, swimming, fishing, or hunting.

Much of today's outdoor recreation substitutes for experiences no longer readily available to the majority of people. As life becomes more compartmentalized and structured, opportunities for many traditional outdoor activities which satisfy recreation needs decrease. The significance of such a decrease lies in the fact that recreation is widely recognized as critical to emotional well-being, and to the health of society in general.

Thus Ontario has had to develop a complex and extensive system of public recreation areas in order to meet the basic needs of its people for outdoor recreation opportunities. Ontario's population continues to grow and become more urbanized. The system of recreation areas must grow with the ever greater demands of that growing population. Recreation Parks are a key element of Ontario's outdoor recreation system.

Recreation Parks provide opportunities for individual physical activities such as bicycling, swimming, hiking and skiing; facilities for group activities and sports such as playgrounds and playing fields and courts; and opportunities for development of outdoor skills such as camping, sailing, fishing, canoeing, and hunting. These activities contribute to the physical fitness, development, and health of Ontario residents.

Recreation Parks provide a wide range of programmes and facilities for creative, relaxing, and rehabilitative leisure time pursuits. They provide opportunities for Ontarians to escape the routine aspect of everyday life, to pursue individual choices and freedoms, and to enhance their personal sense of well-being and enjoyment of living.

RECREATION PARKS

PART I

A RECREATION PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

Recreation Parks contain programmes and facilities for all social and economic strata of Ontario's population. They provide opportunities for social interchange through group activities and individual contact. Thus they assist Ontarians to understand each other and the social environment within which they live.

Recreation Parks provide a wide range of educational opportunities. These opportunities cover many aspects of natural and cultural history which relate to the outdoors, as well as a number of outdoor skills. Recreation Parks can educate through both informal learning through individual exploration and appreciation, and formal learning through organized programmes.

In areas of the Province under heavy demand for industrial, agricultural, or urban uses, Recreation Parks make an important contribution to regional open space. They perform both an aesthetic and a utility role within a mixed pattern of land uses. They make a significant contribution to the conservation of land, water, vegetative, and wildlife resources.

Many Recreation Parks provide travel and vacation opportunities to Ontario residents and visitors. Thus they provide cultural and social benefits and necessary tourism facilities. In addition, they contribute to local economies through their own public sector expenditure and employment and through encouragement of complementary private sector enterprises. In so doing, Recreation Parks contribute to the redistribution of moneys within the Province, and the distribution of moneys brought into the Province by visitors.

In summary, by complementing the efforts of other public and private agencies, Recreation Parks make an essential contribution to the provision of equitable access for all Ontarians to adequate opportunities for physical, social, and spiritual growth and development through outdoor recreation.

Outdoor recreation is a social value. The "need" for outdoor recreation is therefore relative, defined by prevailing social philosophies. However, recent research has explored some of the dimensions of current leisure time behaviour, and new analytical techniques are useful in approaching the problem of "how much?".

Results of the Ontario Recreation Survey reveal some relevant characteristics of recreation participation by Ontario residents. For example, of those recreational activities attracting the participation of more than 20% of the respondents, the large majority are outdoor activities which frequently require specially designed and developed recreation areas. The survey found, for selected outdoor recreation activities, that a majority of participation took place from home base¹ on a day visit basis.

¹ Home-based participation is that which does not involve an overnight stay away from the participant's home.

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A RECREATION PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

For example, 81% of participation in picnicking, 71% of swimming participation, and 57% of fishing participation were from home base. Further results of the survey suggest that the demand for recreational opportunities in much of Ontario outstrips available supply. The rate of growth for many activities has been significantly in excess of population growth. Even to maintain the current level of supply per person, with no provision for any increase in the average amount of participation per person for the Ontario population, will require an addition in day use supply in the order of 25% between the years 1976 and 1991.

Population projections indicate an increased proportion of the population will be concentrated in the most heavily urbanized part of the Province. The majority of the additional day-use needs, then, will originate within the "Golden Horseshoe" from Oshawa to Niagara around the western end of Lake Ontario.

The Ontario Recreation Survey shows that in the two most popular day-use activities, swimming and picnicking, approximately 70% and 55% respectively of all home-based participation occurred within 30 miles of the respondent's home residence. Only about 10% of home-based swimming and 15% of home-based picnicking occurred more than two hours' travel time from the respondent's home. It is evident, then, that day-use opportunities must be provided close to a population centre in order to meet needs originating in that centre. In assessing adequacy of supply, the use of a two-hour travel limit defining day-use supply zones for urban centres appears to be realistic.

Provincial Parks¹ currently fulfill an important role in providing opportunities for day-use recreation. In southern Ontario, Provincial Parks provide approximately one-third of the total existing capacity for beach-oriented swimming and picnicking. However, there is considerable variation in the supply of day-use opportunities through the Provincial Parks system to residents of major population centres in the Province.

While growth in car camping in Provincial Parks in Ontario has averaged approximately 8% per year over the past ten years, there are recent indications that this rate of growth will be somewhat more modest in the future. It seems likely that future increases in camping will result largely through growth in the Province's population rather than through significantly greater participation per population member.

As in the case of day-use recreation, simply allowing for population growth while maintaining the same level of supply per resident means that camping capacity must be increased by approximately 25% between 1976 and 1991. Much of this growth in

¹ In this discussion, "Provincial Parks" include the parks of the Niagara and St. Lawrence Parks Commissions and the St. Clair Parkway Commission.

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demand will originate in urban centres in the "Golden Horseshoe" around the western end of Lake Ontario since a substantial portion of the population increases will occur here.

Most camping activity occurs within a limited driving range of the participant's home residence. It was found in the Ontario Recreation Survey that just over two-thirds of all camping trips and close to 80% of all weekend camping trips took place within a three-hour drive of the respondent's home. It is reasonable, then, to adopt a three-hour travel limit to define camping supply zones for urban centres.

Provincial Parks currently provide approximately 20% of the supply of camping opportunities in southern Ontario. Again, as in the provision of day-use opportunities, there is considerable variation in supply of Provincial Park camping opportunities available to major population centres both in southern and northern Ontario.

Figure 1 shows the 1976 per person supply of day-use and camping opportunities in Provincial Parks for population regions in southern, and major population centres in northern, Ontario. The population regions in southern Ontario include urban and rural populations within regions centred on major municipalities. Thus all southern Ontario residents are included in the 25 urban centred regions. Where more than one population region competes for supply from a particular location, this supply is allocated among the population regions on the basis of its distance from each population region involved, and the population size of the regions.

The per person supply figures indicate the number of user days of supply available each year for each resident within the named population region or centre. Non-resident use of day-use and camping opportunities is recognized by deducting from total supply an amount representing the existing proportion of use of supply by non-residents. This is done in order to represent more accurately the amount of supply actually available to residents.

Figure 1 also shows the projected 1991 per person supply of day-use and camping opportunities comparable to the 1976 figures, assuming that there is no expansion in total supply to meet anticipated population increases.

In addition, as population continues to grow both inside and outside Ontario, there is a need when providing increased capacity to meet resident day-use and camping needs, to maintain the existing proportion of Provincial Park day-use and camping opportunities provided to travellers en route in Ontario, which

FIGURE 1

SUPPLY OF DAY-USE AND CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES IN PROVINCIAL PARKS,^a
MAJOR POPULATION REGIONS AND CENTRES, 1976 and 1991

	Day-use Opportunities (2 hour range) (Day Visits Per Person Per Year)		Camping Opportunities (3 hour range) (Camper Days Per Person Per Year)	
	1976	1991	1976	1991
Southern Ontario				
Urban Centred Regions				
Windsor	1.34	0.82	0.27	0.21
Chatham	1.72	1.64	0.54	0.45
Sarnia	2.31	2.16	0.68	0.57
London	1.72	1.57	0.38	0.30
St. Thomas	2.83	2.54	0.73	0.59
Woodstock	2.09	1.94	0.76	0.61
Stratford	2.98	2.69	0.90	0.78
Owen Sound	3.36	3.21	1.00	0.87
Guelph	0.75	0.52	0.71	0.52
Kitchener	1.12	0.67	0.47	0.35
Brantford	1.57	1.19	0.65	0.51
Simcoe	2.91	2.54	0.66	0.53
Niagara	0.67	0.52	0.26	0.20
Hamilton	0.52	0.45	0.35	0.28
Oakville	0.96	0.60	0.55	0.38
Brampton	1.04	0.60	0.55	0.35
Toronto	0.59	0.45	0.22	0.17
Barrie	3.28	2.99	1.00	0.91
Oshawa	1.79	1.27	0.72	0.52
Peterborough	1.93	1.64	1.00	0.75
Belleville	3.36	3.36	1.00	1.00
Kingston	2.24	2.01	1.00	1.00
Cornwall	1.87	1.79	1.00	1.00
Ottawa	0.75	0.60	0.78	0.56
Pembroke	1.04	0.90	1.00	1.00
Southern Ontario Mean	1.30	0.96	0.50	0.39
Northern Ontario				
Major Urban Centres				
Thunder Bay	1.39	1.08	0.25	0.19
Sault Ste. Marie	0.90	0.67	0.15	0.11
Sudbury	0.80	0.48	0.56	0.34

^a Including parks of the Niagara and St. Lawrence Parks Commissions and the St. Clair Parkway Commission.

RECREATION PARKS

PART I

A RECREATION PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

is about 20% on average throughout the parks system. There is also a need to provide increased capacity to maintain the existing supply per person of destination camping opportunities in Northern Ontario parks, which is about 60 camper days per year per 1000 Ontario residents.

1 Destination camping opportunities are facility-based camping opportunities where the natural and cultural environments within or near the park attract campers from considerable distance for stays generally of 3 or more days.

FIGURE 1 cont'd.

	Day-Use Opportunities (2 hour range) (Day Visits Per Per- son Per Year)		Camping Opportunities (3 hour range) (Camper Days Per Per- son Per Year)	
	1976	1991	1976	1991
<hr/>				
Northern Ontario continued				
<hr/>				
Timmins	1.87	1.28	0.70	0.48
Kirkland Lake	2.06	1.57	0.68	0.52
North Bay	1.55	1.12	0.69	0.50
<hr/>				
Northern Ontario Major Urban Centres Mean	1.21	0.85	0.43	0.30
<hr/>				
Mean, Southern Ontario plus Northern Ontario Major Urban Centres	1.30	0.95	0.50	0.38
<hr/>				

NOTE: 1991 figures are based on 1976 total supply and 1991 population projections: that is, no expansion in total supply to meet anticipated population increases.

RECREATION PARKS

PART I

A RECREATION PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

3. A Policy for Recreation Parks

Recreation Parks are areas which support a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities for large numbers of people in attractive surroundings.

Recreation Parks may be based on inherently significant recreational environments such as major beaches, or on landscapes lacking that significance but of outstanding potential for recreational development.

Recreation Parks represent a standard of quality which justifies their development by the Government of Ontario to meet public needs. Users may participate in a wide variety of challenging and rewarding outdoor physical activities, in car camping, in group recreational and educational programmes, and in natural and historical interpretation. Facilities to support all these activities may be developed to the greatest extent complementary to the natural and cultural landscape.

Recreation Parks guarantee to the people of Ontario places near at hand where they can enjoy themselves and recreate in pleasant outdoor surroundings. Farther away from major population centres, Recreation Parks guarantee to Ontarians and their visitors places to camp and relax while discovering and exploring new areas of the Province.

The Recreation class of parks contributes to the achievement of the following objectives of the Provincial Parks system by:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <u>Recreation</u>
<u>Objective:</u> | a) <u>Providing day-use opportunities in areas of outstanding recreational potential.</u> |
| | b) <u>Providing facility-based camping opportunities in areas of outstanding recreational potential.</u> |

Recreation Parks will provide opportunities for a wide variety of healthful and enjoyable outdoor activities on a year round basis. Individuals, families, and groups will have every opportunity for social interaction with fellow recreationists. Individual Parks may provide either day-use only or both day-use and camping opportunities. Principles for the selection of Recreation Parks to meet recreational needs are defined in Part II of this document.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <u>Heritage</u>
<u>Appreciation</u>
<u>Objective:</u> | <u>Providing opportunities for exploration and appreciation of natural and cultural environments through interpretation and education based upon the character and significance of Recreation Parks.</u> |
|---|--|

RECREATION PARKS

PART I

A RECREATION PARKS POLICY FOR ONTARIO

In certain Recreation Parks, interpretive and educational programmes will be developed to reflect the natural features and cultural resources of individual Parks and will be of a scale and nature appropriate to the individual Park.

Tourism

Objective:

Providing Ontario residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.

Recreation Parks will provide day-use and camping opportunities for passing travellers, as well as destination camping opportunities for those attracted from considerable distances. Individual Parks may provide either day-use only or both day-use and camping opportunities.

RECREATION PARKS

PART II

SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

2. Evaluation

Potential Recreation Parks will require evaluation of the aesthetic appeal and capability for high-intensity use and development of their landscapes.

Priorities for the development of new Recreation Parks will be set based upon the following criteria:

- i) The extent to which the current Provincial Parks day-use and camping supply to an urban-centred region falls below the basic level of supply to be provided per person;
- ii) The amount and variety of supply currently available to the region through other public agencies and the private sector;
- iii) The quality of day-use and camping opportunities available to the region;
- iv) The ability of other public agencies and the private sector to provide additional supply to the region.

Priority will be given to areas which can provide a wide variety of opportunities on a year-round basis.

Priority will be given to areas readily accessible to present and future major transportation corridors.

Prospective areas will be evaluated for the significance of their earth and life science features and landscape-related historical resources. Priority will be given to areas which include special or representative features, or features of value to outdoor education.

Priority will be given to qualifying areas where Recreation Park potential is in danger of deterioration.

Economic activities and potentials associated with alternative land and resource uses will be considered and thoroughly evaluated.

RECREATION PARKS
PART II
SYSTEMS PLANNING POLICIES

1. Representation

In establishing Recreation Parks to most efficiently and effectively satisfy deficiencies in supply of Provincial Park outdoor recreation opportunities, the targets are:

- i) to provide to each population region and level of supply day-use opportunities comprising 1.3 day visits per person per year (the 1976 mean supply per person for the population regions of the Province) in Provincial Parks within a two hour range;
- ii) to provide to each population region a level of supply of camping opportunities comprising 0.5 camper days per person per year (the 1976 mean supply per person for the population regions of the Province) in Provincial Parks within a three hour range;
- iii) to maintain the existing level of supply per person of camping opportunities for travellers passing Provincial Parks, and for destination campers in Northern Ontario Provincial Parks.

Nine of the 25 Southern Ontario regions and two of the six Northern Ontario centres have a level of supply below the 1976 mean of 1.3 day visits per person per year (see Figure 1), yielding a total deficit of approximately 3.1 million day visits per year.

Six of the 25 Southern Ontario regions and two of the six Northern Ontario centres have a level of supply below the 1976 mean of 0.5 camper days per person per year (see Figure 1), yielding a total deficit of 3,740 campsites.

The parks of the Niagara and St. Lawrence Parks Commissions and the St. Clair Parkway Commission contribute to achievement of these targets.

RECREATION PARKS
PART III
MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

A Master Plan will be prepared for each Recreation Park. Each Master Plan will establish detailed policy guidelines for the Park's long term protection, development, and management. Each Master Plan will be prepared in accordance with Master Planning and Public Participation Guidelines, issued by Provincial Parks Branch.

1. Zoning

Lands and waters within each Recreation Park will be zoned so that they may be allocated to their most appropriate use relative to the Park. Recreation Parks always include Development Zones, and may also include Access, Natural Environment, Historical, and Nature Reserve Zones. Figure 2 illustrates a hypothetical example of zoning in Recreation Parks.

Development Zones provide facilities and services for a wide range of day-use and camping activities.

Access Zones serve as staging areas where minimum facilities support use of Nature Reserve Zones, and less developed Natural Environment and Historical Zones.

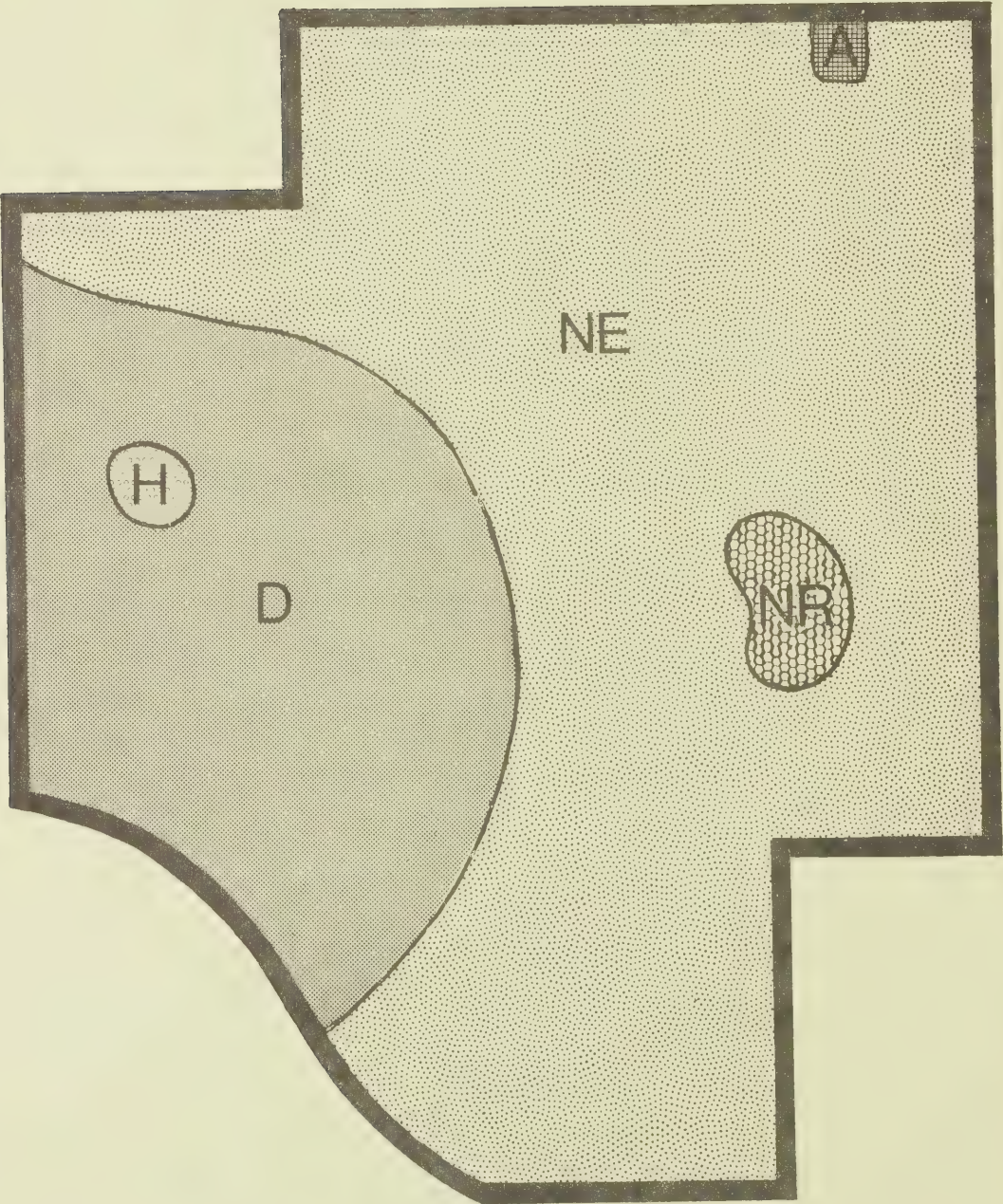
Natural Environment Zones include aesthetic landscapes in which there is minimum development required to support low intensity day-use recreational activities.

Historical Zones include any significant historical resources which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones.

Nature Reserve Zones include any significant earth and life science features which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones.

FIGURE 2

HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE OF ZONING
IN RECREATION PARKS



RECREATION PARKS
PART III
MASTER PLANNING POLICIES

2. Land and Water Uses

All alienated lands and waters within the boundaries of Recreation Parks will be acquired. All physical improvements on acquired lands will be removed, unless they are in a location and of such design as to be of value for park management or visitor services, or unless they are significant to the Park's history or complementary to its cultural landscape. Lands will not be leased for the private use of individuals or corporations.

In any Recreation Park, non-conforming land and water, resource, or recreational uses may exist at the time of its designation. Such uses will be identified as non-conforming uses in the Master Plan for the Park. No further expansion of these uses will be permitted. Provided that they are not demonstrably incompatible with the Park and the zone within which they are situated, such uses will be permitted to continue until the lands are acquired, the uses disappear through normal processes, or equal opportunities for such uses are provided elsewhere. The master planning and development and management policies set out in this document are without prejudice to, and may be superseded by, any settlements of claims made between the Ontario Government and Indian bands in Ontario.

RECREATION PARKS

PART IV DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

2. Environmental Management

a) Lands and Waters

The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry out mining operations in Historical Zones which present authentic activities associated with historical mining industry resources, or in Development Zones as part of outdoor education or interpretive programmes. Otherwise, commercial mineral exploration and extraction will not be permitted.

No new utility lines or rights-of-way may be developed except for those required for servicing the Park.

Park user solid waste and sewage will be disposed outside the Park through local facilities wherever possible. Where there is no practical alternative, landfill sites, incinerators, and sewage lagoons may be located in Development Zones only.

In Nature Reserve and Historical Zones, waters may be controlled for the perpetuation of natural and cultural values. In Natural Environment and Access Zones, waters may be controlled to a limited extent to enhance recreational opportunities where this does not conflict with natural or cultural values. In Development Zones, waters may be controlled to enhance recreational opportunities where this can be done within an acceptable level of environmental impact.

b) Flora

Commercial forest operations will not be permitted. The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry out forest operations in Historical Zones which present authentic activities associated with historical forest industry resources, or in Development or Natural Environment Zones as part of outdoor education or interpretive programmes. Except in Nature Reserve Zones, where trees are removed for development or management purposes, they may be marketed if economic.

The Ministry of Natural Resources may carry on agricultural operations in Historical Zones which present authentic activities associated with historical agricultural resources, or in Development Zones as part of outdoor education or interpretive programmes, or in Development, Access, Natural Environment, and Nature Reserve Zones for the perpetuation of natural features and conditions where desirable.

Non-native plant species will not be deliberately introduced, except in Development Zones for landscaping purposes or as part of arboretums or demonstration forestry or agricultural programmes, or for historically authentic species in Historical Zones where these will not have a detrimental impact on native plant communities in Access, Natural Environment, or Nature Reserve Zones. Where

RECREATION PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

1. Development

The location, design, and materials of all facilities constructed within Recreation Parks will, to the maximum extent possible, be coherent and consistent with the character of individual Parks. All development will be carried out in accordance with approved site plans and development plans.

Development Zones: Development may include roads, visitor control structures, day-use facilities, car campgrounds, basic commercial service facilities for visitors, and orientation, interpretive, educational, and management facilities. Development may be carried out to the optimum carrying capacity of the land and water. Modifications may be made to land and water to permit higher levels of use.

Access Zones: Development will be limited to roads, visitor control structures, basic day-use facilities, and orientation, interpretive, educational, research, and management facilities.

Natural Environment Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, minimal interpretive facilities, and similar simple facilities which will support low-intensity day-use recreational activities.

Historical Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, interpretive, educational, research, and management facilities, means of conveyance appropriate to the historical resource, and historical restorations or reconstructions where appropriate. Restorations or reconstructions will conform to high standards of historical authenticity, and will be complementary to and will not interfere with the integrity of the historical resource.

Nature Reserve Zones: Development will be limited to trails, necessary signs, minimal interpretive facilities, and temporary facilities for education, research, and management.

RECREATION PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

non-native plant species are already established in Historical or Nature Reserve Zones, and threaten the values for which these zones have been established, a management programme for their eradication may be developed. Missing native plant species may be re-established if biologically feasible and acceptable, usually to rehabilitate the quality of areas suffering past or present excessive resource or recreational use impacts. Fertilizers may not be used except in Development and Access Zones.

Prescribed burning may be carried out in Nature Reserve Zones to simulate natural fire when desirable. All other fires will be suppressed. Wherever feasible, fire suppression techniques will be used which will have minimal adverse environmental impact on the Park.

Forest and vegetative insects and diseases threatening values inside or outside the Park will be controlled where feasible. Native forest and vegetative insects or diseases in Nature Reserve Zones will be allowed to develop undisturbed if they do not threaten the values for which the Nature Reserve Zones have been established or values in other zones or outside the Park. Where control is desirable, it will be directed so as to have minimal adverse environmental impact on Access, Natural Environment, Historical, and Nature Reserve Zones.

c) Fauna

Non-native animal species will not be introduced except for sport fishing purposes. Non-native species will not be introduced in Nature Reserve Zones or where they may migrate into Nature Reserve Zones, or where they will have an adverse impact on values in other zones or outside the Park. Missing native species may be reintroduced, and existing populations replenished, if biologically feasible and acceptable. Animal populations may be controlled where practical and desirable.

Sport fishing will be encouraged in Recreation Parks. Fishing will not be permitted in Nature Reserve Zones. Native and non-native fish species may be stocked for put and take or put and delayed take sport fishing in Development Zones. Native fish species may be stocked for put and delayed take sport fishing in Natural Environment, Historical and Access Zones. Fish stocking programmes in individual Parks must avoid action which would affect endemic fish populations protected in Nature Reserve Zones. The use or possession of bait fish will be prohibited in Nature Reserve Zones. Certain water bodies may be closed to fishing temporarily or permanently for fisheries research or management purposes.

Commercial fishing, including commercial bait fishing, will not be permitted on water bodies entirely enclosed within Recreation Parks.

RECREATION PARKS
PART IV
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Sport hunting may be permitted only in Natural Environment Zones where public participation during master planning clearly demonstrates a need for hunting opportunities in the Zone; where there are no alternative hunting opportunities in the local area of equivalent accessibility, quality, and significance; where the Zone initially has the resource base to provide a quality hunting experience without habitat management; and where hunting can be effectively separated in time and space from other recreational activities in the Zone. Except in Nature Reserve Zones, habitats may be managed to enhance wildlife viewing, outdoor education and interpretive opportunities, and, where permitted, hunting, where compatible with the Park's natural and cultural values and other recreational uses. Areas open to hunting may be closed to hunting temporarily or permanently for wildlife research or management purposes.

Existing commercial trapping rights will be phased out in a manner least harmful to the economic wellbeing of existing trappers indigenous to the area. No new trappers or traplines will be permitted. Commercial trapping will not be permitted in Nature Reserve Zones.

FIGURE 3
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES ENCOURAGED IN
RECREATION PARKS

This figure shows activities and facilities encouraged in Recreation Parks, by zone. It should be noted that zones are subordinate to the Park class. Therefore activities encouraged or not permitted in an Access Zone, for example, in one class of park will not necessarily be the same as those in an Access Zone in another class.

The left hand column includes both activities and facilities. Facilities have been used where the accompanying activity is totally dependent on specially designed facilities (e.g., golfing requires a golf course, pool swimming requires a swimming pool). Activities have been used where facilities are not essential to the pursuit of the activity. Most of these activities may be pursued with or without facilities. Where both options are a realistic possibility, the activity is preceded by an asterisk, and two symbols are given. The first symbol refers to the activity without supporting facilities; the second, to the activity with facilities. For those activities not preceded by an asterisk, special facilities are not normally required (e.g., orienteering, historical appreciation) or are at a minimal level and are covered elsewhere (e.g., canoeing). In all cases, the development of any facilities will be at a level appropriate to the zone in question and subject to the general development policies for each zone. This list of activities and facilities is not, however, intended to be exhaustive.

Symbols

- Y - Normally encouraged in this zone.
- M - May be encouraged in this zone in certain parks of this class where appropriate.
- Blank - Not compatible with this zone; if now exists, a non-conforming use which will be phased out.
- a - If authentic to the Historical Zone.

Zones

Activities and Facilities

- Arboretums
- Archery facilities (temporary)
- *Angling
- *Boating (ice)
- * (powered)

D	A	W	NR	H	NE
M					
M					
Y/M	Y/M			M/M ^a	Y/M
Y/M	M/M		M/	M/	M/
Y/Y	M/M				

RECREATION PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

3. Recreation Management

A wide variety of healthful and enjoyable day-use and facility-based camping activities will be encouraged in Recreation Parks on a year-round basis. In Development Zones, where activities and facilities will be concentrated, individuals, families, and groups will have every opportunity for social interaction with fellow recreationists. In other zones, recreational activities will be of lower intensity. Regional differences in recreational behaviour will be reflected in the types of facilities and programmes developed for individual Recreation Parks. Recreational activities and facilities encouraged in each zone are set out in Figure 3.

The Ministry of Natural Resources may where desirable operate means of public conveyance appropriate to zone character and values. Motorboats may be permitted on designated water bodies in Natural Environment Zones. Where permitted, their power may be restricted. Snowmobiles and trail bikes may be permitted on designated trails in Natural Environment Zones where compatible with environmental values and other recreational uses and when alternative snowmobiling or trail biking opportunities in the local area are limited. Otherwise, motorized land vehicles and watercraft of any kind will not be permitted except in Development and Access Zones. Land vehicle use in Access Zones will normally be for access purposes only.

Any activities may be restricted or prohibited in Nature Reserve and Historical Zones where necessary to maintain the values for which those zones have been established.

Figure 3 cont'd

	D	A	W	NR	H	NE
Campgrounds (car)	M					
(boat-in or walk-in)	M					
(group, day)	M					
(group, overnight)	M					
(back-country campsites)						
Canoeing	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
* Cycling	Y/Y	Y/Y			M/M	
Demonstration areas (demonstration farms, logging exhibits, etc.)	M				M ^a	
Dog trials	M	M				
Golf courses	M					
* Hiking	Y/M	Y/M		Y/Y	Y/M	Y/Y
Historical appreciation	M	M		M	Y	Y
* Horseback trail riding	M/M	M/M			M/M	M/M
* Hunting						M/M
* Ice skating	Y/M	Y/M		Y/	Y/	Y/
Kite flying	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
* Model aircraft flying	M/M					
* Model boat operation	M/M					
Nature appreciation	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Orienteering	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Outfitting services						
Painting	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
Parkways for pleasure driving	M					
Performing arts	M				M ^a	
Photography	M	Y		Y	Y	Y
Picnic grounds	Y	Y			M	
Playing fields, open space	Y					
Playgrounds	M					
Recreation programmes (organized)	Y	M		M	M ^a	M
Religious programmes (organized)	M				M ^a	
Resorts	M				M ^a	
Restaurants and food services	Y				M ^a	
Roller skating rinks	M					
* Sailing	Y/M	M/M		M/	M/	Y/
Shooting facilities (temporary)	M					
* Scuba and skin diving	M/M	M/		M/	M/	M/
* Skiing (cross country)	Y/Y	Y/M		Y/	Y/M	Y/Y
* (downhill)	M/M					
* Sledding	Y/M	Y/		Y/	Y/	Y/
* Snowmobiling	M/M	M/M				M/M
Snowshoeing	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
* Swimming	Y/Y	Y/Y		M/	M/M ^a	Y/
Swimming pools and lakes (artificial)	M				M ^a	
Tennis courts	M					
* Trail biking	M/M	M/M				M/M

RECREATION PARKS
PART IV
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

4. Visitor Services

a) Information

A basic, low-key public information service will be essential for each Park. The term "Recreation Park" will be incorporated into the name of the Park for public identification purposes wherever possible. All brochures, maps, Park signs, etc., will indicate this designation; for example, Wasaga Beach Provincial Recreation Park.

b) Interpretation

Interpretive programmes and facilities normally will only be developed in Recreation Parks where there are natural or cultural features of interpretable provincial significance. Such programmes and facilities will normally be less developed than those in Natural Environment or Waterway Parks. Features of regional or local significance particular to individual Parks may be interpreted through printed material, self-use facilities, and informal personal contact where appropriate.

c) Recreation Programmes

Recreation programmes may be developed where a strong demand exists and where a significant increase in the quality of visitor experience will result. Programmes will stress the development of outdoor skills of users so that they may better enjoy the recreational environment of individual Parks. Outdoor recreation skills to be promoted would be limited to those appropriate to the individual Park and could include, for example, canoeing, sailing, camping, cross-country skiing, angling, and rock climbing. There may also be opportunities for participation in historic activities associated with individual Parks. Programmes, where developed, will be complementary to those offered in other Parks and by other public agencies and the private sector.

d) Outdoor Education

Outdoor education use of Recreation Parks will be encouraged where it will contribute to organized school group understanding of the natural and cultural environment. Specialized information services to assist leaders of interested groups will only be provided in association with large-scale interpretive facilities. Where appropriate, these facilities may be developed and operated on a shared-cost basis with local educational agencies which would use them principally during Park off-seasons.

RECREATION PARKS

PART IV

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

5. Scientific Research

Scientific research by qualified individuals, which contributes to knowledge of social and behavioural sciences and natural and cultural history, and to recreational and environmental management in Recreation Parks, will be encouraged in Recreation Parks.

All research programmes will require the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and must also meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation. The Ministry may approve the removal of faunal and floral specimens, soil and geological samples, and archaeological and historical artifacts by qualified researchers. All such materials removed remain the property of the Ministry. Approved research activities and facilities will be compatible with protection values and recreational uses in individual Parks, and will be subject to development and management policies for Recreation Parks unless special permission is given. Sites altered by research activities will be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible.

RECREATION PARKS
SELECTED REFERENCES

PART I

The Need for Recreation Parks:

Ontario Recreation Survey: Progress Report No. 2; Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Planning Study Committee, Ontario Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development, Toronto, 1974.

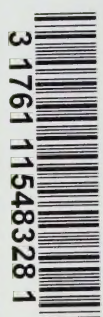
PART III

Provincial Park Master Planning and Public Participation Guidelines; Richards, Norman R., and Sargant, William B., unpublished report, Park Planning Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto, 1976.

PART IV

Recreation Management:

Park Management/Operating Plan; unpublished report, Park Management Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto, 1976.



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